Bengaluru Tuesday, December 30, 2025 Pages 14 Vol 78 No 360 ₹7

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DH

DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

Lalit Modi apologises for 'biggest fugitives' remark

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One burnt alive in Andhra train fire P.8

Nation

I'm truly secular, says Mamata P.8

Quickly

New Year's Eve: Metro services extended

In preparation for the New Year's Eve rush, Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd has extended metro train services on the Purple, Green, and Yellow lines. On December 31, the last train from Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Station Majestic, towards all four directions – Whitefield, Challaghatta, on the Purple Line and Madavara, Silk Institute on the Green Line – will depart at 2.45 am. Page 2

Techie killed in LPG blast at PG

Aravind, a 23-year-old IT employee, was killed and three others injured after an LPG cylinder explosion triggered a fire at a paying guest accommodation in Kundalahalli in HAL police station limits on Monday evening. Tension gripped in the area following the incident. Residents alerted fire department.

Migrant worker hacked by 4 in TN

In yet another hate crime, a 20-year-old migrant worker from Odisha was brutally attacked with sickles in Tiruttani in Tiruvallur district by four intoxicated juveniles, who also filmed the assault. All the four juveniles have now been apprehended by the Tiruvallur district police.
Details on Page 9

Siddaramaiah set to equal Urs' record

On January 7, Siddaramaiah will become the longest-serving chief minister of Karnataka, and preparations are underway to celebrate the feat. Congress' social justice icon Devaraj Urs is the longest-serving CM. He was in office for 2,792 days, or 7.6 years, in two terms.
Details on Page 4

SC stays Nov 20 verdict on Aravalli definition

Proposes fresh expert panel to reconsider issues

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Monday stayed the operation of its earlier November 20 verdict, delivered by then CJI B R Gavai, which had restricted the definition of the Aravalli range to landforms rising at least 100 metres above the local terrain.

"We direct that recommendations of the (previous) committee and findings of the Supreme Court shall remain in abeyance. The case to be taken up on January 21, 2026," a three-judge bench led by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant said.

The court passed the order after taking suo motu cognisance of the issue, following demands to review the previous order.

The bench, also comprising Justices J K Maheshwari and Augustine George Masih, said, it wanted to revisit the contentious issue surrounding the identification and protection of the Aravalli range.

The court noted that its judgment has invited a spate of applications and and petitions, challenging the findings of the committee and the subsequent approval accorded, while also seeking clarification on certain directions stipulated in the judgment.

"While we have no scientific reasons justifying any ex-facie acceptance of the same, nor any cogent evidence or expert testimony to substantiate these individual contentions, nevertheless, it seems prima facie that both the committee's report and the judgment of this court have omitted to expressly clarify certain critical issues," the bench said.

The court also felt there is a dire need to further probe and clarify to prevent any regulatory gaps that might undermine the ecological integrity of the Aravalli region.

It proposed the constitution of a high-powered expert committee -- including domain specialists -- to comprehensively re-examine questions relating to the height, extent, and ecological significance of the Aravallis.

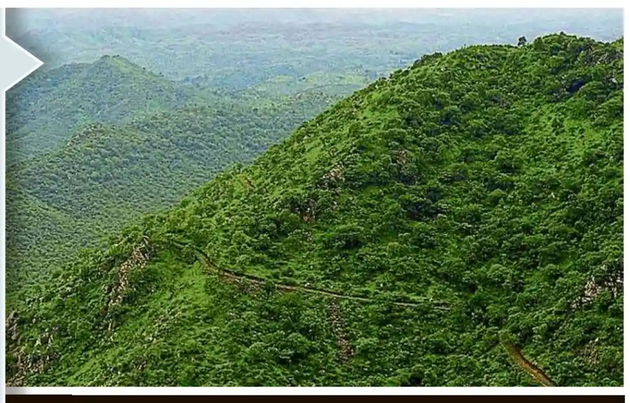
"A fair, impartial, independent expert opinion must be obtained and considered, after associating all requisite stakeholders," the bench said.

The bench issued notice to the Centre, the states concerned, and the amicus curiae.

▸ Aravalli, Page 5
▸ Another report, Page 8

Report re-look

- Bench says it wants to revisit contentious issue surrounding the identification and protection of Aravalli range
- Says the committee's report and the judgment have not expressly clarified certain critical issues
- Feels there is need to probe and clarify to prevent regulatory gaps that might undermine the ecological integrity of the Aravalli region
- It opines that there was a need to examine if the demarcation approved last month would increase the areas where mining can be permitted



"This public dissent and criticism appear to stem from the perceived ambiguity and lack of clarity in certain terms and directives issued by this court. Consequently, there is a dire need to further probe and clarify to prevent any regulatory gaps.
- SUPREME COURT

Setback to Sengar as SC puts on hold HC bail order

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Monday stayed the Delhi High Court's order of December 23, granting bail to former UP MLA Kuldeep Sengar in the 2017 Unnao rape case.

The hgh court had then suspended his sentence of life term, pending his appeal against the conviction.

Acting on a plea by the CBI, a vacation bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, J K Maheshwari and Augustine George Masih issued notice to the expelled BJP leader, seeking his response within four weeks.

Upon hearing Solicitor General Tushar Mehta for the CBI, the court noted substantial questions of law arose in the matter, including on definition of a public servant, which required examination.

The bench also noted the suspension of sentence orders were ordinarily not stayed but this was a peculiar case as Sengar has been in custody in another case.

"We stay operation of the HC's order in peculiar facts. Respondent shall not be released from custody pursuant to the impugned order," the bench said.

The court also clarified that the victim has a statutory right to file a separate petition and she does not require liberty from this court.

▸ Unnao rape case, Page 5

Families evicted from Kogilu will get flats, says CM

GBA, housing dept to bear bulk of Rs 11.2L of flat cost

BENGALURU, DHNS

In an bid to defuse the situation arising out of the eviction of families in Kogilu in North Bengaluru, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday announced that displaced families will be accommodated at the multi-storied apartment in Baiyappanahalli in Byatarayanapura constituency which was built for the poor.

He also announced that the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) and the housing department would bear the bulk of the cost of each flat that costs Rs 11.20 lakh.

The announcement comes at a time when the eviction of 167 unauthorised houses triggered a political controversy after Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan termed the razing of houses in Waseem Layout and Fakir Colony as "bulldozer raj".

The Congress high command had immediately intervened, expressing concern that such actions should have been undertaken with far greater caution, sensitivity and compassion, keeping the human impact in mind.

Stating that Pinarayi was trying to make eviction "a political issue", Siddaramaiah defended the eviction stating that close to 15 acres of land where sheds were constructed, belonged to the government.

▸ Kogilu, Page 5

DCM D K Shivakumar at Kogilu in Bengaluru on Monday. DH PHOTO

Waste plants planned in Kogilu

A 50-tonne biomethanisation unit and two plants for processing animal waste and sanitary waste are among key projects proposed on the land in Kogilu, which is at the centre of controversy following the eviction of 167 houses. Page 2

Won't allow slums on public land: DKS

DCM D K Shivakumar said the government would not allow slums to come up on government land in Bengaluru and would act against those who illegally collected money from vulnerable families to permit such settlements.

Astra missiles among Rs 79k-cr defence buys okayed

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Defence Ministry on Monday approved military purchase worth Rs 79,000 crore, including longer range Astra Mk-II beyond-visual-range missile for the Indian Air Force combat jets, and a number of weapons and radars to counter UAV attacks as seen during Operation Sindoor.

The shopping list approved by the Defence Acquisition Council, headed by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, also includes long-range precision-guided rocket for Pinaka multi-barrel rocket launchers, full mission simulators for Tejas Light Combat Aircraft for improved pilot training and leasing of high altitude, long endurance UAVs to keep an eye on the Indian Ocean region.

"Astra Mk-II missiles with enhanced range will increase the capability of the fighter aircraft to neutralise adversary aircraft from a large stand-off range," the defence ministry said in a statement.

The IAF currently uses Astra Mk-I missile with a range of 80-110 km. The Mk-II version of the home-grown BVR missile would have a range of upwards of 140 km with some versions having a range of over 200 km, sources said.

Originally developed for Tejas LCA, Astra missiles are now fired also from Su-30 MKI jets. While the IAF looked at buying 700 of these missiles for its needs, the Defence Ministry did not mention the numbers sanctioned by the DAC.

▸ Defence, Page 5

Shopping list

- Long-range precision-guided rocket for Pinaka multi-barrel rocket launchers
- Full mission simulators for Tejas Light Combat Aircraft
- Long endurance UAVs to keep an eye on the Indian Ocean region
- Integrated drone detection and interdiction system Mk-II

HC: Consider policy to let temples grow sandalwood

BENGALURU, DHNS: The high court directed the Principal Secretary, Ecology & Forests, to consider whether institutions like the Sri Krishna Math, Udupi, could grow their own sandalwood trees for use in their temple's religious practices. If so, the state can consider a policy in this regard, Justice Suraj Govindaraj directed, allowing the petition filed by Sri Krishna Math.

The Krishna Math approached the court aggrieved by non-release of sandalwood since 2007. According to the petitioner, 1,087 kgs of sandalwood was agreed to be made available to the Math in 1921, and that until 1976, sandalwood had been made available.

The Math said the practice of providing sandalwood billets free of cost to the religious institution was commenced by Hyder Ali's administration. It was further submitted that though the authorities claim non-availability of sandalwood, it was used for the cremation of two VVIPs. Instead of using it for cremation, sandalwood could be provided to the temple, it submitted.

▸ Sandalwood, Page 5

SAILING BACK IN TIME

INSV Kaundinya, the Indian Navy's stitched sailing vessel built using ancient Indian techniques, embarks on its maiden voyage to Muscat, Oman, retracing historic maritime links with the Gulf region. PTI

Industrial output growth at 2-year high in Nov

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Industrial output growth rose to an over two-year high of 6.7% in November from a paltry 0.5% recorded in the previous month, led by a strong performance of the manufacturing sector, official data showed on Monday.

Manufacturing growth quadrupled to 8% in November from 2% in October. After a gap of nine months, all six used-based sectors posted positive growth.

Consumer non-durable sector registered a robust growth of 7.3%, highest in 25 months. Output of consumer durables increased by 10.3% in November, year-on-year.

Details on Page 10

SHOW STOPPER

Want to watch Jana Nayagan? Shell out Rs 1,000

PRANATI A S
BENGALURU, DHNS

Ticket prices are soaring for Tamil star Vijay's purported swan song, 'Jana Nayagan', and are being sold at as high as Rs 800 to Rs 1,000 for the few shows for which advance booking is already open in Bengaluru.

The film is set to hit the screens on January 9, 2026. Advance bookings opened in the city on Sunday and at least 12 of the 16 shows currently open are already completely sold out.

Only a few months ago, the Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce (KFCC) and the Karnataka Film Exhibitors Federation — whose members largely own single-screen theatres in Karnataka — had come out in support of the Karnataka government's Rs 200-cap on movie ticket prices.

Commenting on this, Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce (KFCC) president M Narasimhalu, who also owns the Vaishnavi and Vaibhavi cinemas in Uttarahalli, said the chamber continues to support the Karnataka government's Rs 200 cap on movie ticket prices. However, he added that distributors are unwilling to supply films unless exhibitors agree to higher ticket rates.

When there is no law, even single screen theatres are tempted to make money, he said, adding, "When the state implements the law, even distributors can't say anything."

Suprith T S of K V N Productions, who is distributing the film in Karnataka, said it works on a "demand and supply basis".

▸ Ticket prices, Page 5

Sudeep to watch 'Mark' with fans

Kannada star Kichcha Sudeep is set to celebrate New Year's Eve with his fans by watching his latest action drama, 'Mark', released last week, at special screenings in Bengaluru and Mysuru.

When an engineer turned into a drug maker

BENGALURU, DHNS

The probe into the recent drug bust in Bengaluru is throwing up a lot of questions. One among them being: How did a chemical engineer get seduced by the world of illegal drug manufacturing?

Prashant Patil

Because, that is the tale of Prashant Patil.

Before he got his hands dirty, Patil, the prime accused, had dreams of launching a startup.

A native of Belagavi, Patil was in contact with two businessmen from Rajasthan, who allegedly financed him to set up drug-processing units in Bengaluru, a senior officer of the Central Crime Branch (CCB) said. Patil had explained his business model to them to make easy money.

The network came to light after the Maharashtra Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF), Konkan unit, arrested a suspected drug peddler Rashid Shaikh, was found with drugs on Mumbai–Pune Highway. During the interrogation, police discovered that Shaikh had been in contact with Patil for the past few months.

Investigators said the duo had allegedly discussed a plan to manufacture drugs for "easy money", citing an allegedly large customer base in Bengaluru and the ease of transporting narcotic to neighbouring states through established networks.

Police suspect that Patil used his technical expertise to set up the units and supervise the chemical processing of narcotic substances.

▸ Drug, Page 5

Three cops suspended

In a major administrative action after an illegal drug manufacturing network in Bengaluru was exposed, the Bengaluru City Police Commissioner on Monday ordered the suspension of three police inspectors for alleged dereliction of duty and failing to gather prior intelligence.

Rs 100-crore waste facilities proposed at Kogilu site

To house biomethanisation, animal & sanitary waste plants

BENGALURU, DHNS

A 50-tonne biomethanisation unit and two separate plants for processing animal and sanitary waste are among the major projects proposed on a 14-acre site in Kogilu Layout, which witnessed the eviction of 167 unauthorised houses in mid-December.

Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Ltd (BSWML), which is investing around Rs 100 crore in the project, is already in possession of nine acres of the land.

The controversy erupted over the demolition of permanent sheds and houses on the remaining five acres of public land, where nearly 500 people were reportedly living without valid titles.

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar inspects Kogilu site in Yelahanka, where hundreds of families were evicted. DH PHOTO

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar alleged that a few miscreants had collected between Rs 1 lakh and Rs 2 lakh from several families and allowed them to construct houses on government land. "We will identify those involved and initiate action," he said, defending the demolition of the unauthorised structures.

Officials said the 14-acre parcel, part of Survey Number 99 of Kogilu village, is government gomala land and forms part of a larger extent of 57 acres and five guntas. The land was handed over to the then Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) in November 2014 for setting up a solid waste processing facility.

They said a portion of the land was earlier an abandoned quarry and had been used for dumping construction debris. After the site was levelled, illegal constructions began to come up, as reflected in Google satellite images from 2019.

In an eviction drive on December 20, the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) cleared around 120 unauthorised buildings and 80 to 90 sheds erected illegally on the five-acre portion.

Officials maintained that the evictions were carried out on legally allotted land and that no title deeds, allotment orders or ownership documents had been issued by the tahsildar's office in Yelahanka taluk for the structures removed. They said the action was in accordance with government orders and prevailing rules.

They also said three rehabilitation centres have been set up for the evicted families, though some have refused to move to these facilities.

However, activists working with the displaced families criticised the eviction, saying the government should have adopted a more humane approach, especially given the cold weather currently gripping the city.

Project highlights

- Biomethanisation plant: **50 tonnes**
- Animal waste rendering plant: **4 tonnes**
- Sanitary waste incinerator: **15 tonnes**
- Coconut shredder

Total investment: Rs 100 crore

72 trees to be felled for road on SWD buffer zone

Trees on 5.34 acres of defence land located in Ejipura

BENGALURU, DHNS

About 72 trees are expected to be felled for a 5.5-km road being built on the buffer zone of a storm water drain between Koramangala and Sarjapur.

A public notice issued by the Greater Bengaluru Authority's forest department said the trees are located within 5.34 acres of defence land in Ejipura, through which the proposed road will pass.

Civic officials and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said the new road will ease congestion and cut the distance between MG Road and Bellandur by up to 10 km, but environmentalists remain unconvinced.

REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE

Public feedback invited

The public can send their objections against tree removal to: **The Deputy Conservator of Forests & Tree Officer, GBA, NR Square, Bengaluru-02; or email: dcfbbmp12@gmail.com.**

"The road will be open only for two-wheelers and cars," environmentalist Alexander James said. "Also, the road is being built in the buffer zone and removal of trees will only worsen the water-holding capacity of the soil, making the road weak."

Shivakumar, who recently reviewed the project, said the road would create history and is aimed at protecting the drains.

In the past week, multiple public notices have alarmed citizens, with close to 700 trees marked for removal across two projects. While 310 trees face felling for a sewage treatment plant at Mailasandra, a similar facility at Doddabele is set to affect 355 trees.

"Tree felling is only increasing," said civic activist and environmentalist Vinod Jacob, who pointed out that authorities have not reduced tree felling or implemented credible compensatory afforestation in Bengaluru.

"Alarmingly, these decisions appear to have been taken without public consultations, internal reviews, or site-level assessments. The Tree Expert Committee must urgently step in, conduct field inspections, and explore project realignments to save or significantly reduce the loss of these natural assets," Jacob added.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Rashtrakavi Kuvempu Jayanti: Soumyanatha Swamiji, M Krishnappa, Priya Krishna; Lecture on Kuvempu-C Veeranna; Kannada Sahitya Parishat, Vijayanagar Assembly Constituency; Kuvempu Kala Kendra Trust; Karnataka Industrial and Commercial Kannada Associations Federation; Adichunchanagiri Community Hall, Vijayanagar; 5 pm.

Centenary celebration of the composition of the state anthem, Kuvempu Geetotsava 'Shatakantagala Samooha Gayana': Inauguration: LN Mukundaraj M, Wooday P Krishna, Ranga Samsthana; Sheshadripuram College campus, Sheshadripuram; 6 pm.

Kappanna Dasamanotsava: Song recital: Kikkeri Krishnamurthy and team; screening of film 'Kanooru Heggadathi'; Kappana Angala, JP Nagar; 6.30 pm.

CULTURAL

Kaladeepti Performing Arts Center: Kalakrithi, annual cultural showcase, dance performances by students; Guests: Dr Vasundhara Doraswamy, Gaurish Akki, Priya Simon George; Kalagrama, Jnanabharathi, 5 pm.

'Srinivasa Kalyana' drama performance: ST Somashekar, TN Javarayigowda, Devaraju, HS Ganesh Shetty; Vigneshwara Kala Sangha, near Mata Amritanandamayi Gopura, Mariyappanapalya; 2.30 pm.

RELIGIOUS

Inauguration of Akhand Bhagavata discourse programme: Vidyashree Teertha Swamiji, Suvidyendra Teertha Swamiji; Vyasaraja Mutt, Basavanagudi; 8.30 am.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Mist

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	28.0°C
Minimum	15.0°C
Rainfall	--
Humidity	90%
Sunset (Dec 30)	6:03 pm
Sunrise (Dec 31)	6:40 am
Moonrise	1:12 pm
Moonset	1:10 am

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

NYE crowd management measures

To keep a close watch on crowds during the New Year's Eve celebrations, authorities have put in place the following arrangements:

- **4 central control rooms** and **78 watchtowers.**
- **164** dedicated **women's help desks.**
- **55 ambulances** stationed at strategic points.
- **Women cab** and **auto drivers** for women commuters.
- **Safe zones** and **umbrella-based visual markers** to address weather-related uncertainties.
- **Extended metro and BMTC services** to manage crowd movement; police personnel will be deployed in trains and buses until 3 am.
- Designated cab and auto **pick-up/drop points** are in place at select junctions.
- **Entry** and **exit systems** at venues with limited capacity.
- **Strict checks at hotels, lodges, pubs, and entertainment centres;** violations may invite temporary closure.
- **Drunk-driving checks** will be conducted at 166 locations.

In the run-up to the New Year, the dog squad and security personnel carry out checks on Church Street on Monday. DH PHOTO/PRASHANTH HG

Major traffic curbs in CBD, Koramangala & Indiranagar

BENGALURU, DHNS: As Bengaluru rings in 2026, traffic police have announced extensive restrictions across the Central Business District (CBD), Koramangala and Indiranagar to manage large crowds.

From 8 pm on December 31 to 2 am on January 1, several key roads will be closed to private vehicles.

Police have deployed 10 drones, 249 Cobra patrol vehicles and 400 traffic wardens. All flyovers across the city, except the airport flyover, will be closed from 11 pm to 6 am to curb speeding and wheeling.

CBD: MG Road & Brigade Road

- The area will be pedestrian-only.
- **No vehicle entry (8 pm–2 am):** MG Road (Anil Kumble Circle–Mayo Hall), Brigade Road, Church Street, Rest House Road and Museum Road.
- **Parking ban:** From 4 pm; violators face towing.
- **One-way pedestrian movement:** On Brigade Road (MG Road towards Opera Junction).
- **Parking:** Shivajinagar BMTC Complex, UB City, Garuda Mall, Kamaraj Road.

Koramangala

- **Restrictions:** YD Math Road up to Microland Junction and adjoining roads.
- **Diversions:** Adugodi-bound traffic via Madiwala checkpost and Water Tank Junction.
- **Parking:** BBMP Ground (Munireddy Kalyana Mantap) and near Bethany School.

Indiranagar & ITPL

- **No parking:** 100 Feet Road, 12th Main Road and ITPL Main Road near Graphite India Junction.

Mall of Asia & Orion Mall

- **No parking:** Batarayanapura Service Road and Dr Rajkumar Road.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public is hereby informed that our client proposes to purchase the land parcel measuring about 1200 square feet comprised in site No.16, bearing EPID No.1450364078, carved out of Survey Nos.180/1 and 182/5, bounded as follows: East by- Site No.21, West by- Road, North by- Site No.15, South by- Site No.17, situated at Kodigehalli village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, hereinafter collectively referred to as **'Schedule Property'**, from its present owner.

Any person/s having objection/s to the above mentioned transaction or any person/s claiming to have any manner of right, title, interest, claim or demand in relation to owner and/or the Schedule Property or any part thereof, may lodge his/her/their statement/s, objection/s and/or claim/s in writing, along with documentary evidence in support thereof, with the undersigned, **within 15 (fifteen) days** from the date of publication of this notice. In the absence of any genuine and/or rightful objections and/or claims, our client will proceed to finalize and conclude the proposed transaction of purchase of the Schedule Property by way of an outright sale from the present owners, as if no claim/s or objection/s exist and that they have been consciously waived and abandoned by such person/s forever.

For M/s.Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas
Abhilash Pillai, Partner, Level 3, Prestige Falcon Towers, 19, Brunton Road, Off M.G.Road, Bengaluru - 560025

Date: December 29, 2025
Place: Bengaluru

Govt. of Jharkhand
Energy Department
Jharkhand Renewable Energy Development Agency (JREDA)
3rd Floor, S.L.D.C. Building, Kusai Colony, Doranda, Ranchi-834002., Ph.: 0651-2491161, Fax.: 0651-2491165, E-mail: info@jreda.com; Website: www.jreda.com

NIB CANCELLATION NOTICE

NIB NO.: 10/JREDA/SPP/PAL/25-26

It is to inform that due to non-feasibility of site, the NIB No.: **10/JREDA/SPP/PAL/25-26** for "**Request for Proposal (RFP) for Design, Engineering, Procurement & Supply, Construction, Commissioning and Comprehensive Operation & Maintenance of Cumulative 09 MW (AC) Grid Connected Ground Mounted Solar Power Plant, for a period of 25 years on Government Land at Palamu District of Jharkhand**" is hereby cancelled.

Reference PR No. is 359401.

Sd/-
Director,
JREDA, Ranchi.

PR 369637 Energy(25-26)#D

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमंडल, गोड्डा

शुद्धि पत्र

एतद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि गोड्डा अन्तर्गत "घाटबंका (NH- 333A) से देवडांड़ (दामा) (सुन्दरपहाड़ी– अगिया मोड़, ODR पथ पर) भाया संदमारा, बेलबथान, राजदाहा एवं जामकुंदर पथ के कि0मी0 0.00 से कि0मी0 17.808 (कुल लं0– 17.808 कि0मी0) का चौड़ीकरण एवं मजबूतीकरण/पुनर्निर्माण कार्य" योजना से संबंधित ई–निविदा सूचना सं० RCD/GODDA/1317/2025-26 दिनांक– 22/12/2025, OLD PR No. 369176 Road(25-26):D द्वारा प्रकाशित निविदा को निम्न रूप से संशोधित की जाती है।

	वेबसाईट में ई–निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि/समय–	प्री–बीड बैठक का दिनांक/समय	ऑनलाईन निविदा प्राप्त करने की अन्तिम तिथि/समय–	ई–निविदा खोलने की तिथि/समय–
पूर्व की तिथि	30.12.2025 के अपराह्न 03:00 बजे से	06.01.2026 के दोपहर 11:30 बजे	20.01.2026 के दोपहर 12:00 बजे तक	21.01.2026 के अपराह्न 12:30 बजे
संशोधित तिथि	06.01.2026 के अपराह्न 03:00 बजे से	15.01.2026 के दोपहर 11:30 बजे	28.01.2026 के दोपहर 12:00 बजे तक	29.01.2026 के अपराह्न 12:30 बजे

नोट :–निविदा की शेष सभी शर्तें पूर्ववत रहेगी।

अधीक्षण अभियंता–सह–कार्यपालक अभियंता, प0नि0वि0, पथ प्रमण्डल, गोड्डा

PR 369614 (Road) 25-26 (D)

Authorities on alert: Extra beds, trauma teams, and emergency services deployed

Hospitals step up readiness for NYE emergencies

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

As the city prepares for New Year's Eve, hospitals are gearing up to manage a surge in emergency cases.

Emergency rooms at most hospitals have been equipped with additional beds and staff for December 31 to ensure prompt treatment, doctors said.

Based on the previous years' experience, doctors said most cases involve road accidents linked to alcohol consumption, followed by alcohol poisoning in the days after celebrations.

Dr Rajiv Jain, HOD and Consultant, Emergency Medicine, said, "Ten additional beds are being prepared, and our trauma teams and anaesthetists will be on standby in the hospital as we are expecting road accident cases."

"For the first two days, we see liver- and pancreas-related issues. Emergency cases will be attended to immediately by the trauma team."

Health dept advisory

The health department has advised district-level hospitals to be prepared with ambulance services and emergency medicines in view of NYE parties. Hospitals have also been instructed to deploy both men and women staff in the respective wards.

Major cases

1. Road accidents
2. Collapsing while partying
3. Assault cases
4. Alcohol-related issues

Dr Suhas Sagar NU, HOD and Lead Consultant, Emergency Medicine, said, "The additional beds allow teams to stabilise patients presenting with trauma, alcohol-related illness, cardiac events and acute abdominal conditions." He said dedicated trauma teams, operation rooms, imaging services, and blood banks have been placed on alert as nighttime accidents often involve high-impact injuries requiring rapid intervention.

Dr Shailesh Shetty S, Senior Consultant and In-charge, Emergency Medicine, said hospitals are deploying extra staff. "Instead of one resident doctor at night, we are planning to have three doctors."

Doctors have also reported a rise in assault cases.

Dr Harshitha Sridhar, Head and Consultant, Emergency Medicine, said, "If the number of cases exceeds our emergency room capacity, we activate code yellow, in which additional staff are called in."

Experts noted that dehydration is also sending people to emergency rooms.

Dr V Viju Wilben, Senior Consultant, Clinical Lead and Programme Director, Department of Emergency Medicine, said, "If a person is dehydrated, the chances of alcohol poisoning are higher and risk of a steep drop in blood pressure is associated with it."

CM orders stringent security measures to ensure trouble-free NYE

BENGALURU, DHNS: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday directed the city police to implement stringent security measures to ensure a "trouble-free" New Year's Eve.

He specifically emphasised the safety of women and children.

Chairing a high-level meeting with top police officers and civic officials at his home office, the Chief Minister reviewed the city's preparedness for the celebrations.

A force of 20,000 police personnel will be deployed across the city to maintain law and order, including 1,200 personnel drawn from other districts to bolster Bengaluru's strength.

The Chief Minister instructed that women police officers be deployed in significant numbers, with the 'Chennamma Pade' (special women's squads) tasked with active patrolling in high-footfall areas.

Siddaramaiah

To prevent accidents and wheeling (stunt riding), the Chief Minister announced that all 50 flyovers in the city will be closed to two-wheelers on the night of December 31.

He further warned of zero tolerance towards drug-related activities and unruly behaviour.

Addressing the challenge of post-celebration commute, the Chief Minister directed the BMTC to operate extra bus services after midnight to ensure citizens reach home safely.

Smart surveillance

Focusing on major party hubs like MG Road, Brigade Road, Church Street, Koramangala, and Indiranagar, the Chief Minister mandated the use of modern technology to monitor crowd density and prevent untoward incidents or stampede-like situations.

The meeting noted that the police have already registered 3,500 cases of drunk driving over the past three days.

The meeting was attended by Home Minister G Parameshwara, Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh, DG&IGP MA Saleem, and City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh, among others.

Zero tolerance for nuisance, drunk driving, says top cop

BENGALURU, DHNS: Police will take strict legal action against anyone violating law and order or public safety norms during the New Year celebrations, City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh said.

Addressing a press conference on Monday, Singh said zero tolerance would be shown towards offences such as public nuisance, drunk driving, wheeling, overcrowding, and violation of safety regulations, particularly in key and sensitive areas of the city during the celebrations.

To enforce these measures, the police have rolled out extensive security arrangements, including enhanced surveillance, crowd control, and traffic management.

Vehicular restrictions will be imposed in select areas to ensure smooth traffic flow and public safety. The commissioner urged citizens to cooperate with the police, assuring that adequate personnel have been deployed across the city.

Seemant Kumar Singh

BMTC adds 140 buses on popular routes

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) will add around 140 buses on select routes to handle the New Year's Eve rush on December 31, the press statement said.

The additional services will operate on routes connecting major city hotspots where large crowds are expected to gather.

Of the 140 buses, about 70 will be deployed from busy areas such as MG Road and Koramangala, based on anticipated demand.

Another 70 buses will run on 16 routes as advised by the traffic police, said GT Prabhakar Reddy, Chief Traffic Manager (Operations), BMTC.

The 16 routes will operate between 11 pm and 2 am and include services from Brigade Road to Electronics City (G3) and Jigani (G4); MG Road to Sarjapur (G2); Kengeri KHB Quarters (G6); Janapriya Township (G7); Nelamangala (G8); Yelahanka 5th Stage (G9); Yelahanka (G10); Bagalur (G11); Hoskote (317G); Channasandra (SBS-13K); Kadugodi (SBS-1K); Banashankari (13); Jeevan Bima Nagar (139); Central Silk Board (MF5); and Koramangala (171G).

In addition, BMTC said services will be operated from key bus stations and junctions, including Kempegowda Bus Station, KR Market, Shivajinagar, Koramangala, Kadugodi, Kengeri, Sumanahalli, Goraguntepalya, Yeshwantpur, Yelahanka, Shanthinagar, Banashankari, Hebbal and Central Silk Board.

BMRCL extends metro train services

BENGALURU, DHNS: To handle the New Year's Eve rush, the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has extended services on the Purple, Green and Yellow lines on December 31.

The last trains from the Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Station, Majestic, towards Whitefield, Challaghatta, Madavara and Silk Institute will depart at 2.45 am, a statement said.

On the Purple Line, the last train will leave Whitefield at 1.45 am and Challaghatta at 2 am. On the Green Line, the last trains from Madavara and Silk Institute will depart at 2 am. On the Yellow Line, the last train from Bommasandra will leave at 1.30 am, while RV Road will have its last departure at 3 am.

From 11.30 pm until close of services, trains will run every 8 minutes on the Purple and Green Lines and every 15 minutes on the Yellow Line.

MG Road station closure

MG Road station will be closed for entry and exit from 10 pm due to expected crowds. Commuters can use the Trinity and Cubbon Park stations.

Token sales at Trinity and Cubbon Park will stop after 11 pm. Passengers travelling late are advised to use QR tickets or smart cards with sufficient balance.

IAF's software devpt institute signs MoU with IIT Madras

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Software Development Institute (SDI) of the Indian Air Force (IAF), Bengaluru, has signed an MoU with Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) for joint design and development of an indigenous digital communication system for airborne applications.

Through the partnership, IAF aims to develop advanced algorithms for networking and encryption in collaboration with IIT Madras. "These systems are critical for secure, reliable and high-performance data exchange in dynamic airborne environments, essential for modern military operations and networked warfare. By developing this indigenously, the collaboration seeks to reduce reliance on imported systems, promote technological sovereignty and bolster operational efficiency of India's defence forces," IAF said in a statement.

Air Vice Marshal R Guruhari, Commandant, SDI, said the partnership will help India achieve self-reliance in critical defence communication technologies.

"By combining academic excellence with operational expertise, we are paving the way for innovative, indigenous solutions that will enhance capabilities of our airborne forces," he said. "The project is expected to yield deployable prototypes," the statement said.

'Kichcha' Sudeep set to watch 'Mark' with fans on NY Eve

BENGALURU, DHNS: Kannada star Kichcha Sudeep is set to celebrate New Year's Eve with his fans by watching his latest action drama 'Mark', released last week, at special screenings in Bengaluru and Mysuru.

In Bengaluru, the actor will attend a fan show at Santosh theatre in Gandhinagar in Bengaluru; a similar event is planned at Sangam theatre in Mysuru. The screenings are expected to draw large crowds, given Sudeep's strong fan following across the state.

A spokesperson handling the marketing for the film said the production team was in the process of seeking police protection and deploying private bouncers to ensure crowd control and smooth flow of screenings.

"The show timings are yet to be finalised, we are looking at morning and late-afternoon shows," the spokesperson said. 'Mark' was released on Christmas and opened to mixed reviews from the audience.

Gig workers want ban on 10-min delivery, plan strike on NY Eve

Demand fair wages and improved social security

Rising number of penalties imposed by aggregator platforms is a common concern among gig workers.
DH FILE PHOTO FOR REPRESENTATION

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

Gig workers' unions have called for a nationwide strike on December 31, demanding a ban on '10-minute' delivery among other demands.

Multiple unions had called for a similar strike on December 25, leading to delivery disruptions in Gurugram and some parts of Delhi; however, operations in Bengaluru remained largely unimpacted. But the 'App Bandh' strike on New Year's Eve is likely to have a larger impact on the city, shared union leaders.

Indian Federation of App-based Transport Workers (IFAT), and Gig and Platform Service Workers Union (GIPSWU) are among the major national unions to have called for the strike.

IFAT has about 7 lakh union members across the country, of which about 35,000 are based in Bengaluru. "There is no compulsion for the members to take part in the strike; we want them to participate on their own accord. The reality is that several people want to protest, but they are scared of being blacklisted by their respective companies," said Prashant Sawardekar, founder and national president of IFAT.

Among the main demands from the union are: Regulation of platform companies under labour laws; Ban on 10-minute delivery model, End to arbitrary ID blocking and other penalties; Fair and transparent wages; improved social security; and protection of right to organise and collectively bargain. Karnataka App-based Workers Union, along with other unions, has also written to Union Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya in this regard.

A common concern among gig workers remains the rising number of penalties imposed by aggregator platforms.

"It could be an error by the restaurant or the customer, but we are the ones who bear the brunt of it. If the restaurant delays the order preparation, the customers raise a complaint against us, and if a customer delays picking up the order and is unresponsive, our time is wasted, but the customer is not held responsible. We are penalised for every delay," said Salauddin, a 49-year-old delivery driver who plans to join in on the protest on Wednesday.

The delivery executives remain hopeful that the base pay per delivery will be set at least Rs 20 in the new year.

Many others are also planning to take part, keeping in mind the safety concerns on New Year's Eve.

"The chaos on the streets of Bengaluru on New Year's Eve is not worth risking your life for a job that is neither respected by the employer nor the customers. I hope more delivery agents realise this and join the strike," said Sandeep K, a 39-year-old food delivery and porter agent.

Along with delivery executives, the unions have also called for home service workers and cab drivers to join in on the protest. However, cab and auto services will remain unaffected on Wednesday, said the city-based union.

Hotels anticipate losses

Restaurants across the city remain wary about how to tackle delivery orders on December 31 if the strike sees widespread participation.

While a few smaller establishments plan to take orders on calls and use their own employees for delivery, the large-scale restaurants have no plans set in stone.

"Since we have not yet received any payment from the aggregator platforms, we are hopeful that they'll have everything in place. It's impossible to set up a delivery initiative on our own at the last minute; our operations will take a major hit," said Nikhil Gupta, owner of The Pizza Bakery, Paris Panini and Smash Guys, with about 35 outlets across the city.

CCB seizes drugs worth Rs 2.5 cr; foreigner arrested

BENGALURU, DHNS: The City Crime Branch (CCB), Narcotics Wing, has busted a drug racket and seized narcotic substances worth about Rs 2.5 crore.

Two accused, including a foreign national, were arrested. The operation was carried out in the Bandepalya and Soladevanahalli police station limits.

The CCB team arrested Nigerian national Okeke Christopher Okwdili and recovered 1.70 kg of MDMA. Investigators said Okwdili was sourcing drugs through friends and selling them in the city.

Police said the accused were targeting local residents, IT-BT employees, and students. Okwdili was arrested twice earlier in similar cases and had resumed drug peddling after coming out on bail.

Another accused, Naveen Raj, a resident of Tamil Nadu, had stored drugs at his house in Bandepalya. The CCB seized 60 LSD pills and Rs 2 lakh in cash.

Investigations revealed that he was procuring drugs through the dark web and distributing them locally.

KIA posts 5,904 metric tonnes of coriander trade this season

BENGALURU, DHNS: Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) has posted 13% rise in coriander trade this season.

During the June-Nov 2025 season, the airport handled 5,904 metric tonnes of coriander, a 13% increase year-on-year.

This season saw movement across 22 domestic destinations, with notable growth in shipments from northern and central markets. Lucknow, Varanasi, and Jaipur, in particular, recorded significant volume increase, the airport said. Kolkata accounted for highest share of coriander traffic, followed by Delhi, Bagdogra, Ranchi and Patna.

The airport also facilitated movement to 5 more domestic destinations — Agartala, Agra, Nagpur, Amritsar and Port Blair.

"The season's agri-cargo volumes reflect evolving demand patterns and expanding domestic linkages, while reinforcing BLR Airport's role in facilitating efficient, scalable agri-cargo operations," the statement said.

High Court refuses to quash bribery case against assistant public prosecutor

AMBARISH B
BENGALRUU, DHNS

The high court has refused to quash proceedings against an assistant public prosecutor in connection with a bribery case registered by the Lokayukta police.

Justice M I Arun observed that explanation to section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption (PC) Act clarifies that demanding and accepting the gratification constitutes an offence, irrespective of whether the work has been done or not.

The petitioner Poornima G, who worked as an assistant public prosecutor at the Tiptur JMFC court, challenged the proceedings pending on a complaint filed by R Nagarajaiah, range forest officer at Chikkanayakanahalli in Tumakuru district.

The complainant was acquitted in a case, and the file was before Poornima for her legal opinion. It was alleged that Poornima demanded Rs 10,000 each from four accused, including Nagarajaiah, for a favourable legal opinion as to whether it is a fit case for appeal.

The Lokayukta police had caught Narasimha Murthy, who allegedly acted on behalf of Poornima, while receiving a Rs 20,000 bribe amount through his account.

The petitioner contended that as per the case of the prosecution, the demand was first raised on Mar 1, 2019, and the trap was laid on Apr 29, 2019, whereas, she had already filed an unfavourable opinion against the complainant on Feb 25, 2019.

It was submitted that the question of initiating proceedings for an offence under section 7 of the PC Act does not arise since the allegation is bribery for a work that had already been completed and that too against the interest of the complainant.

On the other hand, the Lokayukta and the complainant submitted that the trial in the case is at its fag end and that 11 witnesses have already been examined with only the investigating officer required to be cross-examined. It was also submitted that the complainant was not aware that the legal opinion had already been filed.

Justice Arun noted that clauses (a), (b) and (c) of section 7 make it clear that the gratification may be towards work already done or yet to be done, and that explanation 1 further clarifies that irrespective of whether the work was done or not, demanding and accepting the gratification constituted an offence.

The Section does not distinguish between the work done in favour of the bribe-giver or done against him. What is sought to be punished is obtaining or accepting or attempting to obtain the illegal gratification.

The result is immaterial. The allegation in the instant case is that the petitioner hid from the second respondent the fact of submitting an opinion adverse to his interest and then tried to obtain a bribe by misleading the second respondent that she is yet to give the opinion and upon him and others paying the bribe, she would give a favourable opinion," Justice Arun said.

The court said, "The offence in the instant case is demanding and accepting the bribe. The fact of legal opinion being given against the interest of the petitioner is immaterial. No doubt, the onus of proving the same lies upon the prosecution".

Drugs racket: 3 inspectors suspended for 'dereliction of duty'

Commissioner orders detailed internal inquiry

BENGALURU, DHNS

In a major administrative action after the exposure of an illegal drug manufacturing network in Bengaluru, the city police commissioner on Monday ordered the suspension of three police inspectors for alleged dereliction of duty and failing to gather prior intelligence.

The suspended inspectors are V Shabarish of Bagaluru station, Chetan Kumar M L of Kothanur station and Ramakrishna Reddy of Avalahalli station.

City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh said that the three inspectors had been placed under suspension after a preliminary inquiry revealed serious lapses in intelligence gathering, especially during field-level monitoring initiative *Mane Manege Police* (police to every home).

According to senior police officers, the suspended inspectors failed to collect and act upon private intelligence inputs related to suspicious activities in their respective jurisdictions, which reportedly enabled the drug network to operate undetected for a long period.

"The officers concerned did not exercise due diligence in monitoring their areas and failed to develop local intelligence, despite indications of illegal activities," a senior official told *DH*.

Police sources said the commissioner ordered departmental proceedings against the inspectors and directed for detailed internal inquiry to ascertain accountability at various levels. Further action will be taken based on findings of the inquiry, they told *DH*.

Focus was on foreign nationals, local peddlers

A senior police officer told *DH* that the city police neglected their duty in detecting the manufacturing unit due to an attention diversion. Their focus was on foreign nationals, including Nigerians, and some local drug peddlers actively operating in Kottanur and Bagaluru station limits.

Although the police had information about four of the accused, they were busy tracking street-level operations and overlooked the manufacturing unit.

However, the Maharashtra police caught the suspects before the city police could act.

One killed, 3 injured in LPG cylinder explosion at PG

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 23-year-old IT employee was killed and three others sustained injuries after an LPG cylinder explosion triggered a fire at a paying guest (PG) accommodation in Kundalahalli, within HAL police station limits, on Monday evening.

Tension gripped in the area for a while following the mishap and residents alerted fire department.

A senior officer said the blast occurred at Seven Hills Sai Co-Living PG, around 6.30 pm. Police said a commercial gas cylinder exploded in the kitchen area, leading to a fire and thick smoke engulfing parts of the building.

The PG building has a ground-plus-six floors with 43 rooms. Fire personnel rushed to the spot and doused the flames, while police evacuated occupants from the premises.

The deceased has been identified as Aravind, a native of Ballari. He was working as a senior analyst in a private IT firm in Whitefield. He reportedly suffered severe burn injuries and died during treatment.

The injured are Venkatesh (28) from Kurnool; Vishal Verma (23) from Uttarakhand and C V Goel (25), a woman from Uttarakhand. All the injured are undergoing treatment at Brookfield Hospital and are stated to be stable.

HAL police have registered a case and launched an investigation to ascertain the exact cause of the explosion and to verify whether safety norms related to the use of commercial LPG cylinders were violated.

TV actor dies by suicide in PG

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 26-year-old Kannada and Tamil television actor, Nandini, allegedly died by suicide at her paying guest accommodation in Mylasandra, under the Kengeri police limits, late on Sunday night.

Police said she was found hanging in her room around midnight. CCTV footage showed that she had locked herself inside before the incident.

She had returned to the PG at 11.15 pm after stepping out with a friend and did not come out thereafter. When repeated phone calls went unanswered, the friend alerted the PG owner. The door was forced open around 12.30 am, and she was found hanging. No suicide note was found.

Preliminary inquiries indicated that Nandini was under stress due to family pressure to take up a teaching job on compassionate grounds following her father's death in 2021. Her father, S Mahabaleshwar, a government school teacher, had passed away three years ago while in service.

Her body was shifted to RR Medical College Hospital for post-mortem and later handed over to the family.

A native of Kotturu in Vijayanagar district, Nandini had been staying at the PG for over four years.

Based on a complaint filed by her mother, GR Basavarajeshwari, also a teacher, Kengeri police have registered a case of unnatural death and are investigating further.

Officials told to ensure uninterrupted power supply

BENGALURU, DHNS: Amid complaints of power cuts, additional chief secretary (energy) has instructed officials to ensure uninterrupted supply.

"Karnataka has taken decisive steps for self-reliance in power generation and there must be coordination between production and distribution," said Gaurav Gupta, additional CS (energy).

"Focus must be on supplying to consumers without interruptions. The government has taken steps to strengthen infrastructure. Engineers must cooperate in this effort," he said.

CM can't be finalised on streets: Jarkiholi

YADGIR, DHNS: Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi has said that change of leadership in the state could be spoken of after Sankranti festival.

"Siddaramaiah is CM now and I am positive that he will present the budget. We can speak of change after Sankranti festival. The CM cannot be decided on streets. We have the party and high command. There is a process for it," Jarkiholi said even as his supporters standing behind him raised slogans "Satish Jarkiholi is next CM."

On demolition drive in Bengaluru, he said the owner of land and reason for demolition need to be ascertained. "Rehabilitation must be given on humanitarian grounds," he said.

Fans set to air adulation as Siddu equals Urs' record on Jan 6

From country chicken feast to Ahinda rally, a lot is lined up

BENGALURU, DHNS

On January 7, Congress' regional satrap Siddaramaiah will become the longest-serving chief minister of Karnataka, and preparations are underway to celebrate the feat, which his followers believe can strengthen his position and thwart efforts to have him replaced.

Congress' social justice icon Devaraj Urs is currently the longest-serving chief minister. He was in office for a total of 2,792 days, or 7.6 years, in two terms.

As of Monday, Siddaramaiah has clocked 2,784 days in office. This includes 1,829 days in his first term (2013 to 2018) and his current one. He will equal Urs' record on January 6 and surpass it the next day.

Siddaramaiah's fans and various organisations are planning celebratory events.

The celebrations will also aim to galvanise the Ahinda (acronym for minorities, backward classes and Dalits), Siddaramaiah's political support base, amid the leadership tussle with his deputy D K Shivakumar.

On January 6, one Ahinda group is planning to serve *Nati Koli Oota* (country chicken feast) in Bengaluru to celebrate Siddaramaiah's feat. Senior Congress leader B K Hariprasad unveiled the feast poster.

The Karnataka State Federation of Backward Class Communities is also planning a bash. "We will celebrate the occasion. However, the scale of the celebration is yet to be finalized," federation president K M Ramachandrappa said.

On January 5, Siddaramaiah is slated to attend a state-level convention of the Kumbara (potter) community. Later in January, a big Ahinda convention is planned in Mysuru, Siddaramaiah's native.

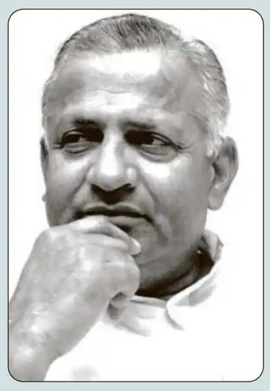
"We have not asked anybody to organise Ahinda convention," Social Welfare Minister Dr H C Mahadevappa, a Siddaramaiah loyalist, clarified.

"But there are various communities who are free to organise their conventions".

Mahadevappa said Siddaramaiah enjoys support across the state.

"Organisations, activists, commoners... their opinion is that Siddaramaiah should continue (as CM) for the all-round development of the state," he said, adding that these groups that are in favour of Siddaramaiah "contributed" to Congress' victory in 2023.

SEAT-FEAT



DEVARAJ URS

First term
2,113 days
March 20, 1972 to December 31, 1977

Second term
679 days
February 28, 1978 to January 7, 1980

TOTAL: 2,792 DAYS

SIDDARAMAIAH

First term
1,829 days
May 13, 2013 to May 15, 2018

Second term
956 days
May 20, 2023 to present

Siddaramaiah will equal Urs' record on January 6, 2026

DR H C MAHADEVAPPA
Social Welfare Minister

"We have not asked anybody to organise Ahinda convention. But there are various communities who are free to organise their conventions.

JD(S) leader Revanna discharged from sexual harassment case

BENGALURU, DHNS

A special court for offences related to MP/MLAs on Monday discharged former minister and JD (S) leader H D Revanna in a case for the offence under IPC section 354A (sexual harassment).

H D Revanna

The special court judge K N Shivakumar (Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate) discharged Revanna on the ground of delay in filing a complaint for offence under Section 354A.

"This is not a fit case to condone the delay in lodging the complaint or initiation of prosecution in respect of the offence punishable under section 354A of IPC (sexual harassment) alleged against accused No.1 (Revanna) U/Sec 473 CrPC. Accordingly, this court declines to take cognisance of said offence punishable under section 354A of IPC as against accused No.1," the court said.

The case was registered at Holenarasipur town police station, Hassan district, based on a complaint filed by his former housemaid.

The police had filed the chargesheet in the case and the trial court had taken cognisance of the offences under IPC section 354 (outraging the woman's modesty) and section 354A.

In the petition filed by Revanna challenging the FIR, the high court had set aside the offence under IPC Section 354. Insofar as the offence under Section 354A, the high court had directed the special court to consider whether it is a fit case to condone the delay and pass appropriate orders since Section 354A is punishable with maximum three years and the charge is hit by limitation as prescribed under CrPC Section 468.

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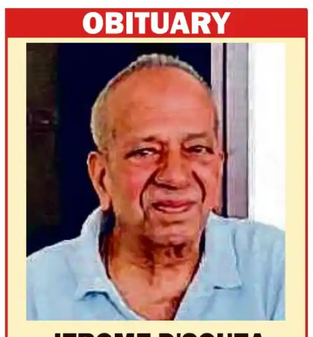

JEROME D'SOUZA
(Jerry)
H/o Late Anne D'Souza
Born: 30th Sept 1932
Expired: 23rd Dec 2025

We will miss you dearly
Rest in Peace

Funeral Mass on 31-12-2025 at 9:30 AM at Annunciation Church, Nandidurga Road
Followed by cremation at Kalpalli Crematorium, Cox Town.

Deeply mourned by:
His Children & Family

DH Classifieds

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Koramangala

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PERSONAL

Lost

DOCUMENT LOST

I, B.S Ravindra, Residing at 5708, Nandi Enclave Apt BSK 3rd Stage, Bangalore 560085 have Lost my Original Sale Deed Document No/Identification:BNG(U) 16168/ 2006-07 dt 04.08.2006 registered in Kengeri sub-registrar office.
If anyone finds it Kindly Contact : 7899726116 immediately

Change of Name

I, NEETHU.H.S. D/o Shankare Gowda R/at No.286 Ranganatha Nilaya, 9th Cross, 2nd Main, Muneshwara layout, Laggere Bangalore- 560058 have changed my name to NEETHU HONNASHEETAHALLI SHANKARE GOWDA vide affidavit dated: 29/12/2025 Before Notary Onkarappa.N.R Bangalore.

I, SRINIVASA Gowda S/o Late Pillappa aged about 60 years, resident of Ward No 16, Gandi Nagar Shidlaghatta Town Shidlaghatta Taluk, Chikkaballapur District. Have changed my name P.Srinivas Gowda before Notary N.R Ravikumar Shidlaghatta. Henceforth I shall be called as P. Srinivas Gowda only.

I, VASUDEV Narayanadev Uttharahalli R/o No 190 Manasa Model House 3rd Street Basavanagudi have changed my minor daughter's name from Amulya Dev Uttharahalli Narayanadev to Amulya Dev.

THANGA RAJ R, S/o Late Rathnam, R/o. Bangalore, Changed my Name as Arvind Thangaraj.

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No: BNCC/EE(QA/QC)/TEND/02/2025-26 **Date: 29-12-2025**

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

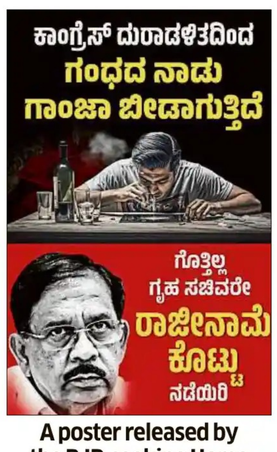
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, Quality Assurance / Quality Control Division, Zone-1, BNCC, Bengaluru invites Request for Proposal from interested Persons / Firms those who have done similar type of work for Consultancy Services for Project Management including Supervision, Quality Control (PMC) for the below works.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Consultancy Services for Project Management including Supervision, Quality Control (PMC) for **Package No: 01 (Package Consists of 6 Works Rs. 1000.00 Lakhs) 1)** Resurfacing to BSF Road from Bagalur Main Road at Reva Collage Junction to GBA Boundary. **2)** Improvements and Asphalting to Palanahalli Main Road from Bellary Main Road at Palanahalli Gate to Bagalur Main Road at All Mart via Kattigenahalli Village. **3)** Improvements to New Shanthinagara Main Road from Thanisandra Main Road to New Shanthi Layout. **4)** Improvement to Roads and Drain of Reva Collage Opposite Road from Thanisandra Main Road to Kattigenahalli Village via Bhatasingh Layout. **5)** Improvement to Drains and Asphalting to Sri Balaji Layout Main Road and Commanders Glorry Apartment Road Singapura. **6)** Resurfacing of New Krishna Temple Road from Doddabommasandra Arch to Vysa School at Railway Gate. **PMC Amount Reserved (Rs. in Lakhs): 8.06, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 20,500/-**
2	Consultancy Services for Project Management including Supervision, Quality Control (PMC) for **Package No: 02 (Package Consists of 4 Works Rs. 1000.00 Lakhs) 1)** Improvement and Asphalting to Sampigehalli - Kogilu Main Road from Sampigehalli to Kogilu. **2)** Improvement to Roads and Drain of Kogilu Layout Main Road from Kogilu Road to Reva Collage Road (Thanisandra Main Road). **3)** Improvement to Road and Drains of Winnfield Garden and MCECHS Layout Main Roads. **4)** Improvements to Fatima and Defence Layout Main Road from Thanisandra Main Road Fatima Layout. **PMC Amount Reserved (Rs. in Lakhs): 8.06, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 20,500/-**
3	Consultancy Services for Project Management including Supervision, Quality Control (PMC) for **Package No: 03 (Package Consists of 3 Works Rs. 1000.00 Lakhs) 1)** Improvements to Roads and Drains of Hegdenagara 1st, 2nd Main Roads and Shabarinagara Main Road from Thanisandra Main Road to Narayanapura Road Via Shiradi Sai Layout. **2)** Resurfacing to Dasarahalli Main Road from Dasarahalli Village to JNC Circle via Sobha Moon Stone. **3)** Improvements to Sarayapalya and Ashwath Nagara Main Road from Thanisandra Main Road to Telecom Layout via Aman Enclave, Matuhi Saw Mill and Masjid E Quba Road. **PMC Amount Reserved (Rs. in Lakhs): 8.06, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 20,500/-**
4	Consultancy Services for Project Management including Supervision, Quality Control (PMC) for **Package No: 04 (Package Consists of 6 Works Rs. 1000.00 Lakhs) 1)** Improvement to KPSC Layout Connecting Road Agrahara Main Road to KPSC Layout. **2)** Improvements to Bellahalli Kannur Main Road from Belaahalli Junction to GBA Boundary. **3)** Resurfacing to Yogesh Nagara and Kempapura Village Road ORR to Coffee Board Layout. **4)** Improvements to Bharathnagara Main Road from Rachenahalli Main Road to Thanisandra Main Road via Abubakar Masjid Road. **5)** Improvement to Roads and Drains of Datta Township Main Road from Bagalur Main Road to Datta Township. **6)** Improvement to NR Wind Gate Main Road from Sampigehalli Main Road to Green Garden Phase 1 Layout. **PMC Amount Reserved (Rs. in Lakhs): 8.06, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 20.500/-**
5	Consultancy Services for Project Management including Supervision, Quality Control (PMC) for **Package No: 05 (Package Consists of 8 Works Rs. 1000.00 Lakhs) 1)** Resurfacing at all Service Roads of Hegdenagara Flyover including K. Narayanapura Main Road. **2)** Resurfacing to Jakkur Main Road behind Jakkur Flying School from Shanimahathma Temple to Kempegowda Circle and Cross Roads and including Connecting Road to GKVK Layout. **3)** Improvements to Markadeyanagara Main Road from Kogilu Road to Agrahara Layout Main Road. **4)** Improvement to Drains and Asphalting to Prakruthinagara Main Road from Kogilu Road to Bollineni Apartment. **5)** Improvement to Bellahalli Main Road from Kogilu Road to Bellahalli Bande. **6)** Improvement to Road and Drains of Krishna Garden Main Road from Bagalur Main Road to Kattigenahalli Village & Connecting Road from Thanisandra Main Road (Petrol Bunk Road). **7)** Improvements to Road and Drains of 1st Main Road and 4th Main Road of Vinayakanagara from Bagalur Main Road to Palanahalli Village. **8)** Improvement to Road and Drain of Vidyanagara and Sobha Chrysanthemum Apartment Main Road from Thanisandra Main Road. **PMC Amount Reserved (Rs. in Lakhs): 8.06, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 20,500/-**
6	Consultancy Services for Project Management including Supervision, Quality Control (PMC) for **Package No: 06 (Package Consists of 5 Works Rs. 1000.00 Lakhs) 1)** Improvement to 1st Main Road Amruthnagara from Bellary Road to Amruthahalli Police Station. **2)** Improvements and Asphalting to New Railway Parallel Road from Bellary Main Road (KIA Road) to Jakkur Village via GKVK Layout. **3)** Improvements to Chokkanahalli Main Road from Thanisandra Main Road to Chokkanahalli Circle and Connecting Road from Chokkanahalli to Thirumenahalli Govt. School. **4)** Improvement to connecting Road between Tindlu Circle to M.S. Palya Circle via Vidyaranyapura Main Road (9th Main Road). **5)** Improvement to Roads and Drains of Military Dairy Farm Compound Parallel Road from Bellary Road to Impact Collage. **PMC Amount Reserved (Rs. in Lakhs): 8.06, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 20,500/-**
7	Consultancy Services for Project Management including Supervision, Quality Control (PMC) for **Package No: 07 (Package Consists of 5 Works Rs. 1000.00 Lakhs) 1)** Resurfacing to Bhadrappa Layout Main Road from Tata Nagara Junction to ORR. **2)** Improvement and Asphalting to Abbigere Main Road from Singapura Bus Stop to Abbigere Lake. **3)** Improvements to Kodigehalli Rub to BEL Circle via Nanjappa Circle. **4)** Improvements to Vidyaranyapura Ward Office Road from Vidyaranyapura Main Road to Somanna Garden. **5)** Improvement to Sampige Road from Thindlu Main Road to Canara Bank Layout via Tennis Court. **PMC Amount Reserved (Rs. in Lakhs): 8.06, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 20,500/-**

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender documents can be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. 2)** Pre Bid Meeting will be held on **16-01-2026 at 11.30 AM in the Office of the Executive Engineer (QA/QC), Amruthahalli Main Road, Byatarayanapura Bengaluru - 560092. 3)** Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders: **21-01-2026 upto 4.00 PM. 4)** Date of Opening of Technical Bid: **22-01-2026 at 4.30 PM.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (QA/QC), Zone-1, BNCC.



A poster released by the BJP, seeking Home Minister G Paramewshara's resignation in the wake of a drugs racket being busted in Bengaluru.

Cong govt has become drugs govt, HM should resign: Chalavadi

BENGALURU, DHNS: Leader of the Opposition in the Council Chalavadi Narayanaswamy on Monday slammed the ruling Congress as "drugs government," and demanded that Home Minister G Parameshwara should resign.

He told a press meet: "Home minister, how long will you spoil the state by giving excuses? You give up your post, let someone else with more capacity be appointed. By fully supporting mafia, government has become drugs government".

The LoP said it was the Maharashtra police who busted the racket.

"Is the home department dead? What are intelligence and police doing? The government here is claiming that they busted it and acting like they accomplished a great deed".

"A situation has arisen where students are hesitating to go to college. The work of anti-naxal force is over. It must to be used as an anti-drugs unit to curb this racket. Let CM become active immediately. Let them decide whether the CM or HM will resign".

During the presser, the BJP released a poster - "'I don't know' (Gottilla) home minister resign and go".

JD(S) leaders bat for coordination after BYV's 'own majority' statement

SUJAY B M
BENGALURU, DHNS

State BJP president B Y Vijayendra's statement last week that the BJP would get 130-140 seats 'on its own strength' has ruffled the feathers of the JD(S), the BJP's ally.

JD(S) sources feel the statement is not "objective," adding that the BJP has never even got a simple majority (113 seats) in the state.

The BJP's best performance in the state was 110 seats in 2008.

Speaking to *DH*, JD(S) Campaign Committee president and former Kadur MLA YSV Datta felt such statements are "dangerous" to both parties.

"Such statements issued to please our respective parties are dangerous to both parties. Thus, I feel that from now, differences between BJP or JD(S) leaders must be first discussed in a coordination committee before being aired in public," Datta added.

A JD(S) lawmaker also acknowledged the need for a coordination committee, adding that it would be formed soon.

With the ruling Congress having a comfortable majority of around 140 seats (including support from some independents), the BJP and the JD(S) have come together. Their alliance worked well in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, securing 19 of the 28 seats in the state.

Pointing out that "neither the BJP nor the JD(S) were pan-Karnataka parties," a JD(S) source argued that the alliance was needed to counter the ruling Congress, which has a pan-Karnataka presence.

No alliance for ZP, TP polls

In a press conference the very next day after Vijayendra's comment, former prime minister and JD(S) Supremo H D Deve Gowda stated that the alliance with the saffron party would continue for the Legislative Assembly and Lok Sabha elections, but that the tie-up would be "difficult" for the upcoming Zilla and Taluk Panchayat elections.

Sources feel alliance is difficult for local body polls, as all parties will try to strengthen their grassroots influence in these elections.

BJP Karkala MLA V Sunil Kumar said that the local polls are aimed at strengthening cadres. He added that even in other states, the BJP and other NDA allies had independently contested local body polls.

Kumar further argued that Vijayendra's statement was not contradictory with the alliance with JD(S).

"Forming the government on our own is needed, and that enthuses our cadre. But that doesn't mean we will leave JD(S). It can be 140 + JD(S) share (50 or 60), making up to 200. Such things have happened in Maharashtra and other states where the NDA alliance has continued," he added.

Political analyst Sandeep Shastri conceded that the BJP-JD(S) alliance works "perfectly well" for a Lok Sabha election, but felt such an alliance in the Legislative Assembly polls may not be favourable to both parties.

"It will be difficult for the JD(S) to go with a normal quota as they believe they have a strong presence in the Old Mysuru region. For the BJP to come to power on its own, which it hasn't done till now, it's important to concede a minimum number of seats. I think there will be serious tensions from both sides," Shastri added.

JD(S) warns of protest against drug menace in state

BENGALURU, DHNS: The JD(S) has warned of staging a protest against the state government to highlight the failure of the police in controlling the drug menace.

Reacting to the recent case where Maharashtra ANTF busted the drug factories in the city, the regional party accused the state government of failing to prevent the drug menace in the state.

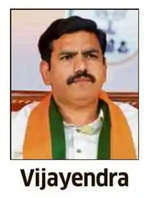
In a statement, JD(S) youth leader Nikhil Kumaraswamy said, "The state government has completely failed to prevent the drug menace in the state. Hence, the police from another state had to come."

Dinner parties flayed

Nikhil criticised the dinner and breakfast meetings by the Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar.

"Is the state's Home Department reserved only for dinner and breakfast meetings? If the government further fails to initiate action against the drug mafia, we will have to launch a massive protest," he warned.

BYV to hold district-level meetings



Vijayendra

BENGALURU, DHNS: BJP state president B Y Vijayendra will preside over district-level meetings from January 5-13, including a state-level core committee meeting on the first day. BJP state general secretary Nandish Reddy said these discussions will revolve around organisational issues and the upcoming activities of the party.

Expedite land acquisition for railway projects: CM

BENGALURU, DHNS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday directed officials to expedite the land acquisition process for pending railway projects in the state.

At a review meeting, Siddaramaiah took stock of the Kudachi-Bagalkot, Tumakuru-Davangere, Belur-Hassan, Shivamogga-Ranebennur and Dharwad-Belagavi railway lines.

"The approved railway projects in the state require the acquisition of 16,554 acres. So far, 84% has been acquired. An estimated 2,685 acres (of land) are pending acquisition," Siddaramaiah said, according to a statement from his office.

The state government has released Rs 2,581.67 crore for various ongoing railway projects. An amount of Rs 2,950.22 crore has been released towards land acquisition, the chief minister said.

Siddaramaiah also reviewed the progress of works under the Chief Minister's Infrastructure Development Programme (CMIDP). A total of Rs 8,666.50 crore has been approved, and Rs 1,000 crore has been released. "All works must be completed within the stipulated timelines. There must be no compromise on quality. District in-charge ministers must review the works," he said.

Constituency grants

Grants have been approved for 205 Assembly constituencies. Siddaramaiah directed officials to receive proposals from the remaining 19 segments. "All tender processes must be completed before January 10," he said.

In 2023-24, each Legislative Assembly segment was given Rs 25 crore under the chief minister's special grants. "A total of Rs 3,510 crore was approved. So far, out of Rs 2,040 crore, 58% of works have been completed and an expenditure of Rs 920 crore incurred," Siddaramaiah said, adding that an order has been issued to release another Rs 1,205 crore.

Siddaramaiah also pointed out that Rs 1,890 crore was approved to repair flood-hit roads in 2024-25. Against this, Rs 250 crore was released, he added.

Govt schools to hold parent-teacher meetings once in 2 months

Parents to be updated on their wards' academic performance

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Department of School Education and Literacy will issue a schedule of parent-teacher meetings to all government schools every year. DH FILE PHOTO FOR REPRESENTATION

Overwhelming response for the first-ever mega Parent Teacher Meeting (PTM) organised at government schools has spurred the Department of School Education and Literacy to introduce a mandate for all government schools to conduct PTM once every two months.

In a circular, the department has issued a schedule for schools to conduct the PTM.

The schools have to invite parents for a mandatory PTM once in two months and update them about their wards' academic performance, progress in extracurricular activities and negative remarks, if any, according to the circular.

The officials of the department said that the mega PTM held across the state on Children's Day received overwhelming response. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had inaugurated the event.

"By conducting such meetings, we should make parents understand their responsibilities in child's progress at the school. This will also help to develop a cordial relationship between parents and teachers and also improves the learning environment," explained a senior official of the department.

Teachers say that the concept of PTM itself is new for government schools.

"Even if we have to convey something to parents regarding their children, it is not an easy task to convince them to visit schools, especially in rural areas. But after the mega PTM most parents are happy to meet teachers," said Chandrakala, head teacher working with a government high school.

This was the first such PTM in state-run schools, which is otherwise a regular feature at private schools.

The schedule for the PTM will be released by the department every year and all schools across the state must follow it. "The idea is to have at least five PTMs in an academic year," the official added.

Mid-day meals for parents

On the day of mega PTM, the government had instructed the schools to serve meals/lunch cooked as part of mid-day meals at schools for parents also. The teachers said that there is no clarity about continuing the gesture during PTMs in future.

SC stays Nov 20...

Aravalli, from Page 1

It opined that there was a need to examine whether the restrictive demarcation approved last month would broaden the scope of areas where activities like mining can be permitted.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, submitted that there were a lot of misconceptions regarding orders, the government's role, etc. "An expert committee was constituted and a report was given which the court accepted," Mehta said.

On this, the bench said that the recommendations of the expert committee made in its report on October 3 and any consequent findings of the Supreme Court would remain in abeyance until further orders. The court clarified that this stay would remain in effect until the present proceedings reach a state of logical finality.

"We further find it necessary that until further orders, no permission shall be granted for mining, whether it is for new mining leases or renewal of old mining leases, in the 'Aravalli Hills and Ranges' as defined in the FSI Report dated 25.08.2010 without prior permission from this court," the bench said. The previous judgment accepted a ban on mining in core or inviolate areas, while restricting the mining activities as outlined by the committee.

SC stays Delhi HC's...

Unnao rape case, from Page 1

Mehta contended that the HC erred in holding that the aggravated offence of provisions under the Pocso Act were not attracted as Sengar could not be treated as a public servant. He asserted that the aggravation takes place when the offender is in a position of dominance over the child. He said though the term public servant has not been defined under the Pocso Act, it has to be considered contextually.

Urging the court to stay the HC's verdict, Mehta said, since the convict had also been held guilty of killing the survivor's father and some other people, he would not be able to come out of jail. Senior advocates Siddharth Dave and N Hariharan for Sengar contended that the MLA here cannot be treated as a public servant and the definition of public servant can't be imported unless expressly provided under the statute.

The bench, however, said, "If this interpretation is accepted, a constable or patwari will be public servant but MLA/MP will not be and get exempted."

HC: Consider policy letting temples to grow sandalwood

Sandalwood, from Page 1

On the other hand, the government submitted that the net quantity of sandalwood after deducting white chips, is very little and there are not enough billets to supply to the Krishna Math.

In terms of the December 4, 2017 notification, religious institutions coming under Class A would be entitled to 20 kgs in a financial year, while those coming under Class B would be entitled to 10 kgs. It was also submitted that the deputy commissioner, Udupi can grant only 10 kgs to the Math, subject to availability.

The court noted that the changed circumstances, since the promulgation of the Karnataka Forest Act, 1963, will have to be considered and sandalwood trees must be conserved. The court said that the entitlement fixed as per the classification of the institutions is done with alacrity and without discrimination.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj stated that the government could consider allotting 10 kgs of sandalwood every year subject to its availability.

Families evicted from Kogilu will get flats, says CM

Kogilu, from Page 1

"We have however decided to make alternative housing arrangements purely on humanitarian grounds," he stressed.

Siddaramaiah promised to complete the allotment of flats by the first week of the new year while noting that houses would be allotted in the flats situated in Baiyappanahalli of Byatarayanapura Assembly constituency, which is seven km from Kogilu. He added that the corporation officials would prepare a list of eligible beneficiaries among the affected families based on certain parameters. He however did not specify the conditions.

To a question on why the government was providing flats to encroachers, the CM said the apartment was built only for the 'site-less and homeless' people under Chief Minister's one lakh housing scheme. "We are accommodating only eligible families," he said.

The CM said the GBA would provide Rs 5 lakh under the 'onti mane' scheme, a subsidy grant provided for the poor, while the housing department will share Rs 3 lakh under different state and central subsidies.

"The beneficiaries will be required to pay the balance amount of around Rs 2.5 lakh. Housing Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan has promised to arrange the loan," he said.

The CM also said that the total value of the flat, which is Rs 11.20 lakh, is for general category. The price is slightly lower for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

During the press meet, Siddaramaiah also directed officials to take action against revenue officials who allowed unauthorised construction on government land. "Such sheds would not have come up without their notice," he said.

Dy CM D K Shivakumar, who was also part of the press meet, said the government will not allow Bengaluru to be turned into a slum. "The Kerala CM is making the eviction an issue fearing loss in the Assembly polls in their state. Houses were being built on legacy waste. The land was uninhabitable," he said, adding that the land was cleared for setting up waste management plants.

Rs 1,000 tickets for Tamil star Vijay's...

Ticket prices, from Page 1

"When films are made with a budget of Rs 400 to Rs 500 crore, they will be able to recover the investment only when we have such high ticket prices. We can have such prices only for some premium movies and we must encash it," he said, adding, "Moreover, ticket prices are high only for the first show, which is the fan show."

Ironically, at the audio launch in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, last week, Vijay said he was giving up films to "stand up for the fans who gave him everything".

Odugowder of the Karnataka Film Exhibitors Federation calls it an "unhealthy practice". He said this is neither good for the audience nor is it good for the film industry. "Film buffs and fans should not be robbed like this," he opined.

Shows for the movie in other cities, including Chennai are yet to open. 'Jana Nayagan' will mark the actor-politician's last movie before he enters politics, full time.

Astra missiles among Rs 79k-cr defence buys okayed

Defence, from Page 1

An approval has also been accorded to long range guided rockets for Pinaka multi-barrel rocket launchers to enhance the range and accuracy that are needed for effective engagement of high value targets.

Within hours of the approval, the first successful trials of the long-range Pinaka rockets with 120 km range was successfully conducted by DRDO at the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur. The existing Pinaka rockets have a range of 80 km. Four DRDO laboratories worked together to develop the rocket.

Other DAC green-lights include loiter munition for precision strike of tactical targets; low level light weight radars to detect and track small size, low flying unmanned aerial systems and integrated drone detection and interdiction system Mk-II with enhanced range to protect the vital assets of the Indian Army in tactical battle area and hinterland.

For the IAF, the acquisition panel also cleared guidance kits for SPICE-1000 bombs, full mission simulators for Tejas LCA and an automatic flight take-off landing recording system.

"Induction of the automatic take-off landing recording system will fill the gaps in the aerospace safety environment by providing high definition all-weather automatic recording of landing and take-off whereas the full mission simulator for LCA Tejas will augment pilots' training in a cost effective and safe manner," the ministry said.

The Indian Navy also received a go-ahead for buying bollard pull tugs to assist ships and submarines in berthing and manoeuvring in harbour and high-frequency software defined radio for secure communications.

All the DAC approvals are for the Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) stage, which is the first step in India's protracted defence procurement process. Subsequently, the deals will have to be approved by the Finance Ministry and the Cabinet Committee on Security before commercial contracts are inked.

The curious case...

Drug, from Page 1

Based on information provided by him, police arrested Suraj R Yadav and Malkhan R Bishnoi, both natives of Bihar, who were staying in a house within Bagalur police station limits. For the last three months, the duo had been working as carpenters while allegedly engaging in drug-related activities.

Investigators said the accused had procured machinery and accessories to run illegal manufacturing operations at an isolated farmhouse in a mango grove. Raw materials used for drug production were allegedly stored at Yerappanahalli. The machinery was destroyed with the help of JCB during ANTF raid.

Further interrogation and technical analysis led investigators to identifying Patil as allegedly being involved in MD drug production. The suspects reportedly disclosed three production locations — a unit operating under the name "RJ Event" in Spandana Layout Colony, an RCC house in Yerappanahalli, Kannur, and another site in Avalahalli.

However, Bengaluru Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh, who visited the locations on Sunday, said no drug manufacturing unit or factory was found at the reported sites.

DH
CHANGEMAKERS 2026
CELEBRATING THE POWER OF GOOD
STRENGTH THAT INSPIRES. IMPACT THAT LASTS.
They rise with resilience, lead with compassion and put the Power of Good into action every day, turning small steps into lasting change.
These are people with extraordinary purpose, quietly inspiring their communities, transforming lives, and paving the way for a better Karnataka.
Read their stories in Deccan Herald on Jan 1, 2026.
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No.4, 100 FT Ring Road, Banashankari 3rd Stage, Bengaluru-560 085. Phone 080 26980100
Email: dpi.dsert-ka@nic.in Website: http://dsert.kar.nic.in

No.: E-66367/DSERT/EDST/STDM/1/2025-ETC Date: 29-12-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through GOK E-Procurement Portal only)

Director, Department of State Education Research and Training, Bengaluru is inviting e-tender from eligible agencies for E-TENDER FOR PROVIDING THE TECHNICAL SUPPORT SERVICE FOR OPETATING STUDIOs AT DSERT. Tender No. DPI/2025-26/SE0378/CALL-3 Last date for submitting e-tender is **05.01.2026 at 5.30p.m.** For more details please log on to website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- DIRECTOR
DSERT, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/AAA/4712/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Division,Hassan

IFT No.27/2025-26, Dated: 23.12.2025

Short term tenders are invited from eligible Agencies in one cover system through KPP portal of GOK (website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) for Hassan and Chikkamagalur District works as per KW-1,2,3 maximum tender amount is Rs.100.00 lakhs & minimum tender amount is Rs.3.20 lakhs. The last date of receipt of tender is 02-01-2026 upto 5.30 PM hours. Further detail can be had from KPP-portal and the above office during office working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, MI & GWD Division, Hassan.

ವಾಸಾಸಂ/ಹಿಸನಿ/ಹಾಸನ/891/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿ/2025–26

BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru - 560 020

No.: BDA/E.E.(E)/963/2025-26 Date: 29.12.2025

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTICE

Short-Term Tender is invited for electricity related works invited by Bangalore Development Authority (Indent Number: BDA/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT173). Tender Schedule is as below.

Tender Schedule: (1) Date of availability of Tender Documents in e-portal: **30.12.2025 (2)** Last date and time for submission of Tender Pre-Bid enquiries: **31.12.2025, 11.00 Hrs. (3)** Date and time of Tender Pre-Bid Meeting: **31.12.2025, 15.00 Hrs. (4)** Last date and time for submission of Tender: **06.01.2026, 17.00 Hrs.** (5) Date of opening Technical Bid of Tender: **08.01.2026 after 17.00 Hrs.** Interested contractors can view further details on **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and for more details it is requested to contact the Electrical Division of BDA during office hours.

Note: For any reason if there is delay in uploading the Tender Documents in e-portal, the revised/modified Tender Schedule will only be published in e-portal.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Electrical), Electrical Division, BDA, Bengaluru.

Government of Karnataka
Karnataka Public Works, Department, Sirasi Division(U.K), Karnataka Ph: 08384-223164, Fax: 08384-224100
No. PWD/SR./Dn/AE/IFT/2059 Building/2025-26/2967 Date: 24.12.2025

INVITATION FOR TENDERS (IFT) KW-3
e-TENDER NOTIFICATION (SHORT TERM)

(1) The Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Sirasi invites tenders from eligible tenderers, for the construction of works detailed in the Table below. The tenderers may submit tenders for any or all of the works given in the Table. **The price tender which will be opened only if the Tenderer is found to be qualified to execute the tendered works. The Tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 3 of the Instructions to Tenderers to qualify for award of the contract. (26.03.2021)** (2) Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka e-Procurement website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/eportal/index.seam** under login for Contractors: (3) Tenders must be accompanied by EMD Declaration form Proforma attached (4) Tenders must be electronically submitted (on-line through internet) with in the date and time published in e-procurement portal. The technical bid will be opened after prescribed time and date in the eprocurement portal, in the presence of the Tenderers who wish to attend at the Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Department, SIRSI Division. (5) Other details can be seen in the tender documents
(Total: 1 Work)
(1) Last date and time for Tender Queries/Clarifications: **01-01-2026 up to 16.00.00** (2) Last Date and Time for receipt of tenders: **02-01-2026 up to 16.00.00** (3) Date and Time for opening of Technical Bid: **03-01-2026 @ 16.30.00** (4) Date and Time for opening of Financial Bid: **05-01-2026 @16.00.00**

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Public Work Department Division
Sirsi (Uttara Kannada)

DIPR/ADK/KSMCA/883/25-26 Dt.29.12.2025

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
ZILLA PANCHAYATH, BELLARY
Office of the Executive Engineer, P.R.E. Division, Bellary.
No. EE/PRED/BLY/AE-1/Various Heads/2025-26/
Dt. 24-12-2025.

Tender Notification (Through KPPP Portal only)

On behalf of Hon'ble Governor of Karnataka tenders are invited from the eligible contractors who have enrolled in Panchayath Raj Engineering Department for 10 works comprising of approved Road and Building works under 2019-20 PMAGY Works, 2024-25 MLA Grant works, 2024-25 CM Spl Grant Works and 2024-25 5054 Flood Grant through KPPP portal.

Indent No.
1.RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT20632
2.RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT20627
3.RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT21393
4.RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT21997
5.RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT21392
6.RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT21359
7.RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT21378
8.RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT21360
9.RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT21367
10.RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT22289

Contractors are required to submit the tender before **07-01-2026 at 4.30 PM** by uploading the relevant documents through KPPP portal website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in by downloading the formats for submission of tenders from **24-12-2025 to 07-01-2026 at 4.30 PM.** Tenders will be opened through KPPP portal on **08-01-2026 at 05.30 PM.** Any changes in the notification will be published KPPP website only. Accepting/rejection of tenders without assigning reason is reserved. Any details can be obtained in person at the office or through telephone No. 08392-266173.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division Ballari
DIPR/Ballari/844/KSMCA/2025-26

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

After demolition, some damage control

The Karnataka government is well within its legal rights to reclaim public land. But legality, when stripped of humanity, becomes a tool for undisputed power. The demolition of 167 homes in Fakir Colony and Waseem Layout near Kogilu, Yelahanka, was not merely an administrative action; it was a humanitarian crisis, executed with indifference to human life. Officials of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) arrived at around 4.30 am, when families were asleep, and flattened homes without allowing the residents to retrieve even basic belongings. The residents stated they were not informed about the action. Women, children, and the elderly were forced out into the cold. If governance is judged by the treatment of the most vulnerable, this episode marks a moral failure.

Many residents insist that they have lived at the location for over two decades, some having availed bank loans to build modest homes. Even if these structures were unauthorised, decades of habitation demand due process, humane eviction protocols, and, crucially, rehabilitation. The Supreme Court has repeatedly held that the right to life under Article 21 includes the right to shelter and dignity. Bulldozers at dawn, without relief on the ground, trample upon this constitutional guarantee. A week after the incident, it is civil society groups, trade unions, and volunteers that are providing food, blankets, and essentials. On Monday, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced that the "eligible" among the displaced families will be accommodated at the multi-storied apartment in Byatarayanapura, built for economically weaker sections of the society. There is no clarity, yet, on the eligibility criteria. The move, made on "humanitarian grounds", may take some of the political heat off the government. But questions on the manner in which the demolition was carried out will remain.

In Kogilu, authorities disregarded humanitarian considerations. Rehabilitation can be a long road

The political fallout has further exposed the state government's discomfort. Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's charge of "bulldozer justice" may be coloured by his own state's political compulsions, but it resonated because the images from Kogilu were indefensible. Congress general secretary K C Venugopal's intervention, expressing "serious concern" over the incident, underlines the unease within the ruling party itself. Equally conspicuous has been the silence of the BJP. The government must immediately provide temporary shelters, winter-proof accommodation, food, and medical care. It must ensure the flat allotment timeline – by the first week of the new year – is met. An independent inquiry should examine whether due process was followed and hold officials accountable for excesses. Reclaiming land does not require demolishing dignity – it requires foresight, fairness, and empathy.

Where mobs fan flames of hate

The killing of Angel Chakma – a 24-year-old MBA student from Tripura – in Uttarakhand is a hate crime driven by racism and intolerance, and a telling reminder of the fault lines in our society. A group of men hurled racial slurs at Angel and his younger brother and attacked them; the assault left Angel dead and his brother injured. Five persons, including two juveniles, have been arrested and a search is on for another accused person. The recent lynching of two men in Kerala and Odisha, after they were branded Bangladeshis, points to rising hostility towards "outsiders" – this is an expression of intolerance of people different in race or appearance. The Dehradun incident has triggered concerns among people from the North-East living in Uttarakhand and protests in Tripura.

These are not isolated incidents as they are sometimes made out to be. North-East natives have often suffered harassment. Foreigners, especially those from Africa, have also been targeted in the country. Prejudices are expressed in diverse ways, at times violent. A few years ago, rumours were circulated about migrants from the North-East, leading to safety concerns and their exodus from cities including Bengaluru. In a changed economic landscape that sees migrants increasingly cross state borders for jobs, othering is an everyday reality. Racial insults and pejorative terms for the non-natives and people from other communities are finding a shriller, disturbing voice. Social media has amplified these attitudes and is often used to fan the flames of hatred and suspicion.

The killing in Uttarakhand further exposes a new, dangerous expression of intolerance

Ironically, the offenders can end up at the receiving end in settings outside of what they identify as 'home'. A case in point is the discrimination Indians continue to face in other countries. While those incidents are seen as an affront to the nation, are condemned, and attract sharp responses from the government, questions about similar attitudes among Indians are often lost in public discourse. Geographical lines are blurring in new India, where communication and economic integration are also shaping a new identity. The recent incidents of aggression conflict with this idea of inclusion. Hate crimes should be dealt with legally and the attitudes that give rise to them should be addressed at individual, social, and political levels. Angel Chakma is reported to have told his attackers that he was an Indian and wondered what he should do to prove his Indianness. His death should put the country to shame and push it towards stronger deterrence and change in the way it addresses its varied identity.

AGE OF ANTHROPOCENE

The Aravalli takeover and the price of progress

Stripped of ecological intelligence, India's development models expose the perils of modern rationalism

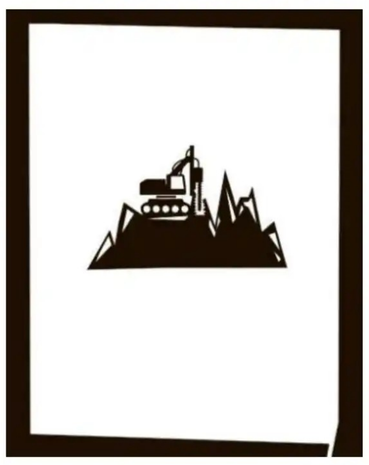
JAGDISH RATTANANI

The debate on the ever-alive topic 'Does God exist?' between the well-known poet and lyricist Javed Akhtar, an atheist, and the graduate of Islamic studies Mufti Shamail Nadwi, a believer, has drawn much interest and comment. Akhtar is the darling of those who stand with reason, logic and secularism, values that are under attack in India today. He is the first Indian to win a little-known Richard Dawkins Award, which is presented annually to a "distinguished individual... who publicly proclaims the values of secularism and rationalism, upholding scientific truth wherever it may lead." But we may ask: Where exactly has modernity and value-free science led us? The sting lies in this counter-question that found no place in the Akhtar-Nadwi television-style debate. The march of science and technology, fused into a compact called technoscience, has delivered remarkable progress on the one hand but, on the other hand, has brought exploitation at a scale so stunning that it has also delivered the unfolding climate crisis, brought humanity to the edge of an ecological disaster, and landed us in the age of the Anthropocene.

There is progress at an immediate and material level for a few, but regress at a long-term planetary scale, an essentially Western-style plunder and conquest of "mother nature" that is often traced right back to the 17th century and the dawn of the Age of Reason, and the subsequent Enlightenment movement of the 18th century. The march deep-wired the scientific method and the reductionist approach, which brought the wonders of modern science in discoveries and inventions that continue to this day. But this science also became a religion of sorts that prayed at the altar of objectivity, maximised extraction and so-called efficiency, and somewhere in the process dehumanised the project of humanity living in peace on a fragile planet.

Earth as the "pale blue dot", the image of our planet as a flicker in the cosmic vastness, brings humility and inspires awe. But that perspective is lost when science becomes a cold and calculated excavation by equipment and equations that dice and slice nature to study its innards but miss the wonder of its systemic connectedness and wholeness.

This diminished understanding of nature is at the root of the crisis across the world, but particularly in India, where rising air and water pollution, biodiversity loss, and concrete or plastic poured into sensitive ecosystems are the visible hot spots in a blind race to growth towards a mythical national greatness. The attempted takeover of the Aravalli mountain range by business groups under the label of progress and growth is only the latest chapter in this long-running game of a nation that has forsaken nature in its quest for mindless extraction. These policies continue to be built on approaches that the advanced economies of Europe have long given up as they moved towards some form of sustainability.



With the sense of the sacred gone, the Aravalli range that forms the oldest fold mountains (so-called because they 'fold up' when earth's tectonic plates collide) on the planet is seen as 800 km of dead rock to be exploited for resources and material assets for consumption here and now, at a cost that will be paid much later and will never be fully comprehended. Yet when what is dismissed as profane is given the status of the sacred, the Aravalli mountain range becomes the god that guides and protects. In the words of an official document of the government, it "gently guides the monsoon clouds eastwards towards Shimla and Nainital, thus helping nurture the sub-Himalayan rivers and feeding the north Indian plains".

Violence on the sacred

India sits at the bottom of the ranks of countries in the Environmental Performance Index (EPI), which combines a range of indicators such as climate change mitigation, air pollution, waste management, sustainability of fisheries and agriculture, deforestation, and biodiversity protection. The EPI is produced by centres working under Yale and Columbia Universities. The 2024 listing showed India at rank 176 out of 180, ahead of Pakistan (179) but behind Bangladesh (175), China (156), and Sri Lanka (134). The government has dismissed earlier versions of the ranking as unscientific.

Ironically, a government and a system that seeks to reclaim the Indian ethos and the ancient Indian way of life is today working with models that are precisely the opposite. For example, the very first verse of the Isha Upanishad tells us that the entire universe, animate and inanimate, is enveloped by god or Isha (*Ishaavasyamidam sarvam*), a verse that Gandhi said captured the essence of the entire Hindu philosophy. But instead of nature being worshipped as a form of the Lord, as seen in the Upanishadic understanding, this government has embraced development models that turn the scriptures and all that is held sacred on their head. Coupled with this violence is the attendant violence of crony capitalism, the violence embedded in growing inequality, and the violence in showcasing a growth militarism that counts numbers but forgets people.

None of this is to suggest that India must reject science or progress, but to ask for an ecological intelligence that sees that the tools of science may not always bring progress, particularly when we disregard the subjective experience or forget that small can also be beautiful, as the economist EF Schumacher put it. This is often explained by ecologists as the Gaia hypothesis, named for the primordial Greek goddess of the Earth, which tells us how our planet is a delicately balanced self-regulating system, alive and conscious, the one planet we call home that gives and protects, and deserves to be protected. This is the simple yet profound truth, and if truth is god, this is the god we need in our troubled times.

(The writer is a journalist and faculty member at SPJIMR; Syndicate: The Billion Press)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Love, lights and a wise act

A stage romance taught me the value of restraint

SOMNATH SARKAR

In deference to the principle 'once bitten, twice shy', I had maintained a healthy, clinical distance from my co-actors designated to play my spouse's role. It mattered little if the play concerned was one-act or full-length. The operative principle remained unchanged, time and emotional tide notwithstanding.

Cut to the time I was "bitten". I was assigned the role of the second-string hero in a locality play that made waves in Kolkata theatres in its time. A lady from my locality was chosen to perform the role of my better half. Our stage presence in the course of the full-length play was to be characterised by intense romance in the beginning, separation in the middle and reunification in the denouement.

The problem, however, arose offstage in the shape of her husband. A dermatologist, he happened to attend the second and third rehearsals. It did not require x-ray vision to fathom the depth of his possessiveness for his wife. A frown on his face as his wife performed her part with aplomb, showering my character with endearments, was enough to set the internal cats, caged in his mind, among the fluttering pigeons, in mine, so to speak.

I decided, after torturous cogitation, to sacrifice all hand-holding expected from my character in favour of remote-control romance on D-day, which, incidentally, doubled as a May Day. Off-stage peace was, decidedly, on a higher pedestal than on-stage romance.

My decision to be discreet may, perhaps, have been semi-prompted by his profession and its associated "tools". The thought of my skin ending up as a laboratory specimen, to be pointed out by him to interns on clinical rounds, was an effective deterrent for me to change tack when the play was actually staged. Accordingly, I decided to throw innocuous flying kisses her way instead of taking a "hugging and bugging" route. The sterile overtures of romance worked wonders. The frowns, playing hide and seek on his forehead for starters, dissipated seamlessly. However, at one point, she got so into the skin of her character that she reached out to me almost spontaneously. I became so carried away by the mood of the moment that I almost reciprocated. Till, at the nick of time, my eyes fell on the face of her husband seated in the first row of the audience. Not daggers but an assortment of scalpels was in his eyes. I felt a strange rumble, epicentred in the stomach, which sent messages to my heart with a copy to the brain to behave. I obeyed instantly.

I did draw my lessons from that experience, essaying, on the rebound, the protagonist's role with co-actresses with sage-like detachment. Years later, I went a step further, opting for insulated roles of widowers, servants and, more recently, the off-stage prompter. Needless to add, with the transition to such "innocuous" roles and through the efflux of time, the spectre of the frowning offstage husband, armed with looks that could kill, is now finally out of the way.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Reimagine urban crowd management beyond the blitz

Apropos '20,000 police deployed as 10 lakh expected for NYE bash' (Dec 29), the announcement of extensive police deployment and AI-driven surveillance for New Year's Eve celebrations in Bengaluru reflects administrative preparedness, but it also invites a broader civic conversation. Technology such as heat maps, QR-based advisories, and facial recognition can certainly improve crowd management and response times. Yet safety is not only a function of numbers or tools; it also depends on clarity of communication, trust between citizens and police, and sensible regulation of high-risk activities like drunk driving and overcrowded venues. Equally important is what happens beyond one night. Temporary measures should inform long-term urban planning. Chronic congestion points, poor pedestrian infrastructure, and uneven public transport capacity resurface at every major event. Investing in better lighting, walkways, last-mile transport, and community volunteers could reduce the need for extraordinary deployments. New Year celebrations should be secure, but they should also push us to rethink how cities manage crowds routinely, not just during celebrations.

K Chidanand Kumar, Bengaluru

Ensure uninterrupted emergency service

I refer to '25% of 108 ambulances in state under maintenance' (Dec 29). The report is deeply concerning because it is not merely a technical issue but a clear failure of planning. Emergency services cannot afford such large gaps in availability at any given time. When response time itself determines survival, maintenance schedules and backup arrangements should be planned well in advance. The government must ensure continuous monitoring and accountability so that repair processes do not come at the cost of human lives.

Pooja Shekar, Bengaluru

Coordination vital

The report on Bangladesh's Hadi murder suspects allegedly fleeing to India is deeply disturbing. Political violence cannot be allowed to escape justice through porous borders. While the BSF has denied lapses, the incident highlights the urgent need for stronger coordination between Indian and Bangladeshi authorities. Speedy investigation, transparency, and lawful extradition are essential to ensure accountability and uphold regional security. Justice delayed in such cases only fuels mistrust and impunity.

Jainab Bhathara, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

We recognise the Tamil language as one of the oldest languages of our civilisation... They (DMK) are doing politics... They should not do politics in cultural issues. We must all be proud of this great language...They will be ousted from power soon.

Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister

What is at stake in cultural politics is not culture but power.

Terry Eagleton

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

Curbing hate: More law, less impact

Karnataka's check on hate speech risks overlapping with existing laws and may not pass constitutional muster

MANU KULKARNI AND FARIN SHAFFI

The Karnataka Legislative Assembly has passed the Karnataka Hate Speech and Hate Crimes (Prevention and Control) Bill, 2025. The Bill defines 'hate speech' as any verbal, print or electronic communication that is made with the intent to cause injury, disharmony, hatred or ill-will, causing prejudice to religion, race, sexual orientation, caste, community, language, etc., but excludes publications for public good, and makes hate speech punishable by imprisonment and fine.

Interestingly, the definition of hate speech under this Bill significantly resembles Section 196 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023. The Supreme Court has extensively discussed hate speech in *Pravasi Bhalai Sangathan v. Union of India* and concluded that there exists an established statutory framework (including Section 153A of the IPC, the earlier avatar of Section 196) to deal with hate speech and that the need is not *new* laws, but the effective enforcement of existing laws.

Additionally, the BNS criminalises hate speech with greater specificity than the new bill. For instance, hate speech implying that the members of any religious, caste or linguistic group do not bear true faith to the Constitution of India is a specific crime under Section 197. Similarly, hate speech implying that a class of persons should be denied or deprived of their rights as citizens of the country is a separate crime under Section 196. Since the BNS covers a broader spectrum of hate speech, the state's move comes across as unnecessary. The Bill may also need the President's assent because of this overlap in provisions.

The Bill's exclusions of publications in the interest of science, literature, art or learning, heritage, or religious purposes are inapt because science, literature, or religion should not promote hate speech. Section 153A of the IPC was introduced in 1898 (and amended in 1969), and for more than 125 years, no need was felt to carve out exceptions. Perhaps inadvertently, the Bill not only waters down the BNS, but its exclusions will likely fuel litigation rather than enabling prosecution.

Unwieldy preventive measures

The Bill empowers the Executive Magistrate or police officers above the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police to take preventive action if they have reason to believe that a person is likely to commit a hate crime. In this age, marked by information technology and the surge of social media, there is hardly ever a time lag between speech and its broadcast, and therefore, it is unclear how the envisioned preventive measures will ever be put to use.

The Supreme Court expects speech to be tested from the perspective of reasonable, strong-minded, firm, and courageous individuals, and not those of weak and vacillating minds, nor those who scent danger in every hostile point of view. The officers who are entrusted with implementing the law will hardly have this perspective – instead, their understanding is likely to be coloured by the perspective of the party which is in power. Preventive powers are, therefore, more likely to be used to target legitimate speech rather than counter hate speech, and may consequently not pass constitutional muster.

A fundamental problem with the Bill is the fluidity of internet users. It is axiomatic that Karnataka's laws cannot extend beyond its borders. At a practical level, how will this law be enforced for content that may have been first posted outside the state but forwarded or reposted within the state? Such jurisdictional questions are likely to befuddle the implementation of this law.

Also, the Parliament has enacted the Information Technology Act in 2000, and the Union government has made extensive rules under the Act for the removal of information. The question of whether a state has the competence to make such a law needs to be answered with intent. Section 6 of the Bill is likely to fail on this score.

This section empowers an undefined 'Designated Officer' to direct any person or intermediary to block or remove materials of hate crime without testing the legality of the speech in court. Effectively, the government seeks to anoint itself as a judge in its own cause. Sooner or later, such tools will be employed by successive governments to excise unpleasant truths and retain only those that are laudatory.

Ultimately, while hate speech is real and certainly needs to be tackled, the implementation of existing laws may hold the key rather than adding a new law to the milieu, which will make the enforcement of both laws complex and cumbersome.

(The writers are advocates practising at the Karnataka High Court)

Bengaluru's climate future will be shaped in classrooms

R RAMACHANDRAN

Bengaluru stands at a pivotal moment in its climate trajectory. Over the past decade, scientific assessments have shown that India is among the world's most climate-vulnerable regions, with major cities experiencing rising temperatures, erratic rainfall, and declining air quality. Bengaluru's summers are now setting in earlier than expected, land surface temperatures have risen sharply over the past three decades, and the city has witnessed three major urban flooding events in seven years -- each causing crores of rupees in damages and displacing thousands.

These impacts are no longer abstract forecasts; they shape the daily lives of Bengaluru's residents. As the city implements the Bengaluru Climate Action and Resilience Plan (BCAP), which outlines a pathway to net-zero emissions by 2070, one imperative is clear: climate education must anchor Bengaluru's resilience strategy.

Children and young people will face the consequences of climate change more intensely and more frequently than any generation before them. Yet they often lack structured opportunities to understand these risks or participate in solutions. The Bengaluru Climate Action Clubs initiative was conceptualised, nurtured and championed by my predecessor, Preeti Gehlot, IAS, to bridge this gap. She spearheaded this innovative programme that could change the face of climate education in Bengaluru, under the leadership of Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar.

Why climate education?

Research shows that climate education does more than raise awareness -- it drives behavioural change. Studies have already documented how climate learning among students increases parental concern and encourages lower-carbon household practices. International analyses by UNICEF and the World Bank highlight long-term emissions and resilience benefits when climate education is scaled systematically. Simply put, teaching children climate strengthens entire communities.

Building on this understanding, Climate Action Clubs -- established by Greater Bengaluru Authority's Bengaluru Climate Action Cell -- equip students with practical skills and scientific thinking. Students across schools are conducting audits on energy, water, waste and greening; assessing their institutions' carbon footprint; and developing action plans aligned with BCAP's priority areas.

Importantly, Climate Action Clubs is not a standalone school programme but a city-wide movement, supported by knowledge partners and aimed at building uniform climate capacity across institutions. With 777 registered clubs and an ambitious target of 6,000, the initiative aims to ensure that every young Bengalurean understands the city's climate risks and feels empowered to shape solutions.

What we are learning from schools

Early outcomes show that when given a platform, young people become capable problem-solvers.

At DPS North, school audits identified waste as the area with the greatest scope for improvement. Students responded by designing paper bags to curb single-use plastics, organising composting drives in which kitchen waste from homes is processed on campus, and drafting a six-month waste-reduction plan -- marking a shift from awareness to measurable action.

At Cambridge School, initiatives such as the "Go Green Campus Drive", vertical gardens, and green corners in every classroom emerged from students' analysis of their own carbon footprint. As they mapped emissions, they realised how everyday habits influence environmental impacts and began adopting small but significant behavioural changes.

At GBA Composite PU College, audits revealed large volumes of recyclable waste but poor segregation. Students introduced improved bin systems, staged awareness skits, and integrated sustainability into classroom discussions. Their next challenge is changing climate-unfriendly adult behaviour.

These examples reveal a consistent pattern: students are able to connect data to action, using evidence to shift systems within their institutions. Initiatives such as the Makkala Climate Action Sabhe 2025, where students debated issues from water conservation to sustainable mobility, further show how climate education strengthens analytical thinking and civic engagement.

Scaling from 777 to 6,000 clubs

Achieving this scale requires a structured roadmap:

Equity and access: Multilingual, context-specific resources for government, aided, and private schools to participate meaningfully.

Capacity building: Training teachers and principals and facilitation of programmes to limit additional academic burden.

Partnership ecosystem: Leveraging expertise of BCAC partners – WRI India, the Climate Educators Network, CMCA, and Thicket Tales.

Community mobilisation: Engaging parents and local communities to support clubs, ensuring continuity beyond school hours.

Monitoring and recognition: Regular showcases, city-level convenings, and recognition mechanisms to track progress and sustain motivation.

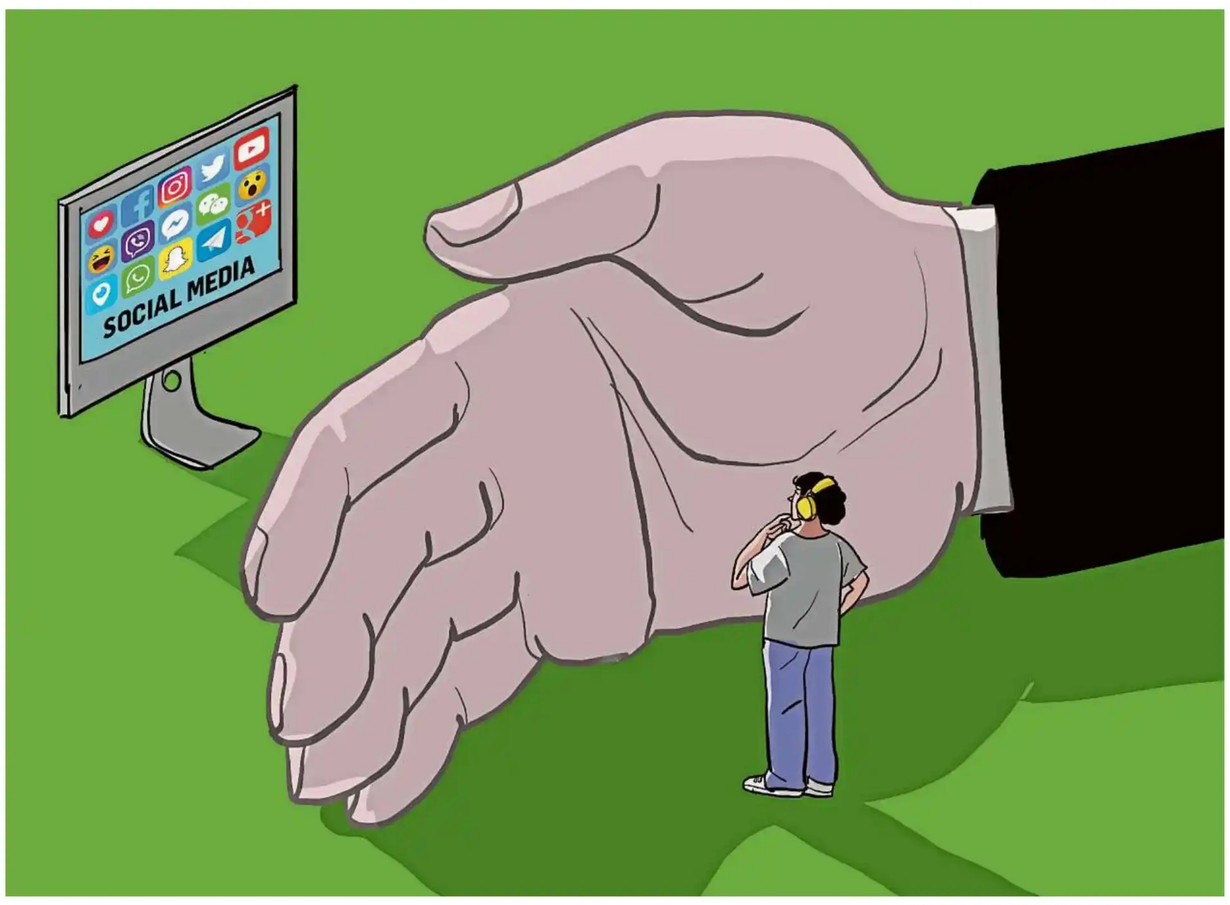
Critically, these school-level action plans will integrate with ward-level climate priorities. Bengaluru's 369 wards are central to climate governance, and student-generated data and ideas can inform ward micro-plans, GBA's annual action priorities, and long-term climate adaptation metrics.

Across India, young people increasingly express climate anxiety. The Climate Action Cell is working to convert that anxiety into agency. If every school in Bengaluru had an active Climate Action Club, we would build not just a more climate-resilient city but a more environmentally responsible society. Climate education is not an add-on; it is an investment in Bengaluru's future leadership.

(The writer is the special commissioner, Greater Bengaluru Authority)

After the country barred children under 16 from using social media, many parents have been asking whether similarly tough action is needed in their own countries

ADAM SATARIANO AND LYNSEY CHUTEL



DH ILLUSTRATION: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN

Worried parents look longingly at Australia's social media ban

A frustrated father in Spain, whose teenage daughter regularly sidesteps parental controls that block social media, wants the government to ban apps like TikTok and Instagram for children.

In France, a mother of three worries about social media's effect on young people and will not give her children smartphones until they are 15. But she is sceptical that a government prohibition is the answer.

A mother in Chile says it is a parent's job, not the government's, to teach children how to use social media responsibly.

Since Australia this month barred children under 16 from using social media, parents around the world have been debating at school drop-offs and playgrounds, and on group chats and online forums, whether similarly tough action is needed in their own countries.

In Australia, surveys show that most parents support the new rules, while young teenagers have talked about using VPNs and other workarounds.

Several countries are weighing whether to adopt similar laws. The Malaysian government has announced plans to bar children under 16 from using social media starting in 2026.

Denmark could impose the toughest restrictions in Europe, though the measures would not go as far as Australia's. The government has said it would block anyone under 15 from using the platforms as soon as next year, although parents would be allowed to give children from the age of 13 permission to use social media.

In the United States, several states have passed laws to restrict children's social media use, including some requiring parental consent.

Many parents in interviews said they were aware of the impact of smartphones on their own lives, and wanted to protect their children from the most harmful effects.

But many also said they felt as if they were fighting a losing battle and were worn down by the time, arguments and technological know-how needed to keep their digitally savvy kids off social media. Parents who feel that way welcomed government action.

Israel Pèrez, a designer in Barcelona, said his 14-year-old daughter was constantly pestering him to lift the restrictions he has imposed on her social media use. He said an Australia-like law would help create new social norms and give parents more support in pushing back against such an online culture.

"I really see it as necessary, not as a drastic or excessive measure," he said. "Even with parental controls, they bypass them. Even with attentive parents, if a phone is given, like in our case, it's hard to control."

In Denmark, Anne Kroijer, a mother of four who lives outside Copenhagen, took action herself. She persuaded about three-quarters of the parents in her eldest daughter's class not to buy smartphones for their children. They got older flip phones instead that do not have many apps or a large touch screen.

"It's so incredibly uninteresting that she forgets it half the time," said Kroijer, who is a founder of a group to help parents wean their children off social media.

Justine Roberts, the founder of Mumsnet, an online community for parents in Britain, said that screen time was one of the most common topics on the site's message boards, and that support for government intervention has grown. In a poll of its users conducted this year, Mumsnet found that 83% said they would back an Australia-like ban in Britain, while 58% said they would be more likely to vote for a political party that committed to such a policy.

"That level of support speaks to real frustration, and to a belief that this is now a public health issue, not just a parenting problem," said Roberts. Her company also helped develop, with the handset maker Nothing, a "safety first" smartphone for children that filters certain content and has tools for parents to limit apps and track notifications.

Not all parents believe new laws are needed, and some worry about government overreach. Others see new technologies and social media as an inevitable part of their children's daily lives.

Charlotte Valette, a mother of three in Paris, said she was grateful that her children's school bans smartphones. Strong parental controls also help parents restrict the content children see while giving the kids "an opening to the world."

"I am not so enthusiastic about the idea of a state taking such a drastic measure," Valette said.

In Santiago, Chile, Paulina Abramovich, a mother of three children ages 11, 15 and 20, said she was fairly relaxed about her children using social media. Her youngest does not use Instagram, but watches a lot of YouTube videos, which she said has helped him in school. Her middle son mainly plays video games.

"I am a mother who has given her children complete freedom in the use of social media, but I have thought more about the trust I have in them and in their education for self-control," she said.

In Kenya, a country betting on technology to bolster its economy, it will be hard to persuade parents to take away their children's smartphones, said Calvin Odera, a social worker in Nairobi, the capital.

Odera said that as soon as he gets home, his 5-year-old son starts clawing at his pockets to have his phone. But while he has restricted screen time, he said it would be difficult for the government to restrict platforms that have become instrumental in the daily lives of Kenyans. "People are very sensitive about it," he said.

In Germany, the government held a year-long review of a petition brought by parents to parliament calling for an age limit on social media use. The public debate showed that opinion was split.

One respondent in the public debate forum on the petition wrote: "So, you're supposed to register on social media with a digital ID card now, or some other method to verify your actual age? That seems rather absurd." The person added, "The clock can't be turned back."

Verena Holler, who lives in Hamburg, Germany, was one of the parents supporting the petition. She kept her children off social media until they were 16, holding firm even as they complained that hardly anyone played during recess, and that all they could do was watch others play games on their phones. "It's a global crisis," she said.

In Malaysia, Shoaib Sabri, the father of an 11-year-old daughter, supports his country's proposed ban, citing concerns over early exposure to adult content on platforms like YouTube. He monitors his daughter's viewing history and uses Apple settings to keep tabs on the apps she downloads.

"I know exactly what she is watching," he said. William Kvist, a former professional soccer player and father of two in Denmark, has spent years pushing for stricter limits on smartphones and social media for young people. He now works part time for a boarding school that limits students' screen time and believes much of the world is catching up with his view.

The New York Times

CIA's best and worst politicians

SRINIVASA PRASAD

For the past couple of weeks, politicians of all sizes and hues in India have been running around in circles like dogs trying to catch their own tails. Some were reportedly grinding their teeth and watching their mobiles. The excruciating suspense over the CIA's awards for the "Best and Worst Politicians of the Year" had made them somewhat loony.

We are talking about the annual awards instituted by Citizens' Initiative and Action, a body comprising members from all walks of life—from TV anchors to dentists, and from Miss India aspirants to peanut sellers. Finally, yesterday, the CIA's 287-member Central Committee made its selections. Deep Throat—as I call my source—crouched outside a window, watched the proceedings and scooped the list, which was to be officially announced only on January 15.

And the awards go to...

The Most Knowledgeable: Nitish Kumar, who invented the best glue to stick himself to his chair—come tsunami or earthquake. Prize: Five tonnes of Fevicol.

The Least Knowledgeable: Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, who said, "AQI? It's a temperature which can be measured with any instrument." Prize: A colouring book and pencils.

The Best Tearjerker: Sonia Gandhi, who said with tearful eyes that the rift between the RJD and the Congress was responsible for the "disappointing results" in Bihar. Prize: Tissue papers, popcorn, and a ticket to *Avatar 3*.

The Worst Tearjerker: Rahul Gandhi, who said quietly after the Bihar defeat, "We lost, did we?" and then yelled at the top of his voice, "Vote *chor*, vote *chor*." Prize: A bottle of throat lozenges and a copy of Mamata Bannerjee's forthcoming book, *How to Convincingly Look Heart broken*.

The Best Chef: Narendra Modi, who continues to rustle up election-winning *khichdis* with the right ingredients, seasons them with a magic sauce called Election Commission and serves them hot after appetisers known as 'freebies'. Prize: The unpublished manuscript by the late Jayalalithaa titled *How To Make Sambar That Waters Your Eyes And Confounds Your Brains*.

The Worst Chef: Rahul Gandhi, who enthusiastically thinks up pretty nice winning recipes before every election and, as he lights up the stove, scratches his head because he forgets which ingredients to use. Prize: a hundred packets of ready-to-cook Maggie noodles.

The Worst Lover of Women: Kerala's CPI(M) leader Saidali Majeed, who theorised that women are meant to sleep with husbands and not to contest elections. Prize: A ticket to China's Yunnan province, where women regularly beat up men.

The Best Lover of Women: Robert Vadra, who said Priyanka has a sparkling political future (i.e., she is Prime Minister-in-waiting). Prize: A round-trip ticket to the romantic Greek island Santorini for a second honeymoon.

The Most Industry-Friendly: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, who announced a Rs 100-crore reward to anyone from the state who wins a Nobel Prize in quantum computing. Prize: Video game Dreamscraper.

The Least Industry-Friendly: Karnataka's Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, who said, "Potholes in Bengaluru? *Hauda*? Ah, those! They are figments of the social media's imagination." Prize: The best-selling autobiography of a Bengaluru pothole titled, *Why I Love Politicians*.

The Best Quack: Odisha's Congress leader Mohammed Moquim, who recommended to Sonia Gandhi an "open-heart surgery" for the party. Prize: Free cardiac check-up.

The Worst Quack: Anurag Dhanda of AAP for saying that Delhi's air pollution has messed up not only Lt Governor V K Saxena's lungs but even his mind. Prize: A thousand face masks.

The Happiest Man: Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who said, "Nobody said I would be the CM for only two and a half years. I am the CM now and will continue as CM, ha ha." Prize: A calendar which sings a happy Kannada song at the end of each day.

The Saddest Man: Election wizard Prashant Kishor, who horribly lost the Bihar Assembly elections but is readying for the state's panchayat polls. Prize: A ticket to the Bond film *Never Say Never Again*.

This is a work of satire and is fictitious.

(The writer is a Bengaluru-based senior journalist who writes on political, social, civic and economic issues—sometimes tongue firmly tucked in cheek)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: DECEMBER 1975

PM rules out lifting of Emergency now

Komagata Maru Nagar, December 29
Prime Minister Indira Gandhi today ruled out lifting of the Emergency now and declared that it would continue so long as it was necessary to safeguard the unity and integrity of the nation. Mrs. Gandhi said the Emergency was brought in not to save her or the Congress Party. She asked: "Is Emergency a plaything which can be imposed or lifted on whims?" Mrs. Gandhi said Congressmen would not spare any efforts to safeguard the unity of the country even if they had to shed their blood.

25 YEARS AGO: DECEMBER 2000

JKLF founder surrenders

New Delhi, Dec 29
Making a dramatic return to India after 30 years of exile, Hashim Qureshi, founding member of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front and the mastermind in the 1971 hijacking of an Indian Airlines plane to Pakistan, today supported India's peace initiative on Kashmir and exhorted the "independence loving" people of POK to launch a "formidable struggle for freedom from occupational forces." Forty seven-year old Srinagar- born Qureshi flew into the capital by a Scandinavian Airlines flight from Amsterdam this morning and walked up to the stunned police officials at the airport and offered to surrender.

OASIS | NAJIB SHAH

To age without ageing

The more we grow old , the more time we seem to spend, literally, trying to remain young. What is it about ageing , a most natural phenomenon, that makes us so very insecure? When as has been said, we look at the mirror and miss our past self or as writer Carol Lefevre calls it there is a 'homesickness for the self'. Is it a reminder of our mortality, the fear of death? Conversely even as we accept the fact that we must die, should we then not live ? Not keep ourselves looking good physically? After all when we see a better version of our , yes, made-up selves, do we not feel good ?

The challenge is in ensuring we maintain a balance between the two. Maintain our zest for life and living without reducing ourselves to a caricature of our younger selves which only evokes snide laughter – and worse pity. Who can say it better than that master who ensured we never every lost sight of our younger selves, Walt Disney- Growing old is mandatory, but growing up is optional. Beauty does not deteriorate with age-it takes a different form. Where our bodies have shrunk but our faces can glow with the wrinkles of wisdom. As has been said some people are born old; some die young in their 80s. Hebe the goddess of immortal youth in Greek Mythology is said to have served nectar to the Gods to keep them perennially young; we have no such person or potion. What we do have is vitamins and supplements where the advertisements speak more than the actual results. People still do get old. More like Geras the Greek mythological counterpart of Hebe -wrinkling and getting old representing biological decline. It is important that we accordingly prepare ourselves. Medical issues are bound to be there. Have insurance and money to take care of yourself. Immerse yourself in books and music. If you can pick up a new hobby, do so – your brain remaining active is the best antidote against mental ageing. Accept the reality that your children and grandchildren have little time to spare. Keep in touch with friends and relatives.

There is this lovely passage from Booker Prize winner Penelope Lively's story *The Elephant's Foot* where the aged protagonist asks her equally aged husband, what can be done in the remaining time which they had. Her husband replies , what do we have that can be exploited? Experience – whole lot of it. So use your experience to spread happiness. And very many of us are also fortunate to have other resources. Give it to persons in need ; in the giving there is a peace which no youth can ever experience. But as you age live for a cause greater than yourself.

'Abysmal record': India flays Pak over attacks on minorities

NEW DELHI, PTI: India on Monday said Pakistan's "horrific and systemic victimisation" of minorities of various faiths is a well-established fact and no amount of "finger pointing" will "obfuscate" it.

New Delhi said this while strongly trashing Pakistan's comments on the condition of minorities in India.

"We reject the reported remarks from a country whose abysmal record on this front speaks for itself," external affairs ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said.

"Pakistan's horrific and systemic victimisation of minorities of various faiths is a well-established fact. No amount of finger-pointing will obfuscate it," he said.

In Islamabad, Pakistan foreign office spokesperson Tahir Andrabi, responding to media queries on alleged vandalism during Christmas celebrations in some places in India, said "persecution of minorities in India is a matter of deep concern".

Andrabi referred to what he called "recent condemnable incidents" of vandalism during Christmas, as well as campaigns allegedly targeting Muslims.

Muslim cleric issues 'fatwa' against New Year celebrations

LUCKNOW, DHNS: A prominent Muslim cleric on Monday issued a "fatwa" (religious decree) against New Year celebrations, calling them "anti-Islamic" and contrary to the Shariat (Islamic laws).

All India Muslim Jamat national president Maulana Shahabuddin Razvi urged Muslims not to organise or attend New Year events

In a video message, he said celebrating the New Year on December 31 or January 1 was Western culture, not Indian. "The New Year celebrations are illegal in the light of the Shariat," said the cleric in response to a query by community members who sought to know if such celebrations were in accordance with the Islamic law.

He said that according to the Islamic calendar, the new year begins from the month of Muharram, while the Hindu new year starts from the month of Chaitra.

Muslim clerics often issue fatwas on matters relating to the Shariat. These fatwas, though not legally binding, are followed by a large section of people, and are issued in response to questions.

4 killed, 9 hurt as reversing bus hits pedestrians in Mumbai

MUMBAI, PTI: Four people, including three women, died and nine others were injured after a reversing bus of Mumbai's civic-run transport undertaking BEST knocked down pedestrians on Monday night, a police official said.

According to the official, the incident took place at around 10pm at busy Station Road in suburban Bhandup (West) when the bus crashed into pedestrians while reversing. He said four people, including three women, died, while nine others were injured in the accident.

The bus driver was detained and process was underway to register an FIR against him, he stated.

SC proposes expert panel to examine Aravalli definition

Flags concerns over ecological impact, 'regulatory gaps'

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

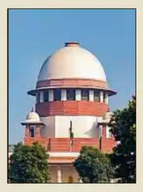
The Supreme Court on Monday proposed the setting up of a high-powered committee of domain experts to undertake a comprehensive assessment of the report submitted by a panel on October 3 that formed the basis of the November 20 judgment on the definition of the Aravalli hills.

A bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices J K Maheshwari and Augustine George Masih noted the previous committee stated any Aravali-district landform with an elevation of 100 metres or more from the local relief shall be termed Aravali hills.

The panel also stated that two or more Aravali hills located within 500m from each other, measured from the outermost point on the boundary of the lowest contour line on either side, form the Aravali range.

The court noted the significant outcry from environmentalists, who raised profound concern about the potential for misinterpretation and improper implementation of the newly-adopted definition and its own directions.

"Consequently, there is a dire need to further probe and clarify to prevent any regulatory gaps that might undermine the ecological integrity of the Aravalli region," said the bench.



PANEL'S DELIVERABLES

- Clear identification of areas covered under the proposed definition
- Specific delineation of regions excluded from protection
- Assessment of ecological impact of regulated or sustainable mining in newly demarcated Aravalli zones
- Evaluation of risks of degradation or loss in areas excluded from the definition
- Short- and long-term environmental impact assessment of implementing the proposed definition and directions

The court proposed a committee to examine whether the new definition of the "Aravalli hills and ranges" created a structural paradox wherein the geographical scope of protected territory was significantly narrowed.

It also asked the panel to consider whether this restrictive demarcation broadened the scope of "non-Aravalli" areas, thereby facilitating the continuation of unregulated mining and other disruptive activities in terrains that are ecologically contiguous but technically excluded by this definition.

The court also asked the committee to look into whether the Aravalli hills, characterised by an elevation of 100 metres and above, constituted a contiguous ecological formation even when the intervening distance exceeds the stipulated 500-metre threshold.

"Furthermore, in such instances, it must be clarified whether regulated mining would be permissible in these gaps. If so, what precise spatial parameters or lateral width would be utilised to define the extent of the 'Aravalli Range' to ensure that ecological continuity is not compromised," it said.

The bench also sought to know whether the widely publicised criticism asserting that only 1,048 hills out of 12,081 in Rajasthan meet the 100-metre elevation threshold, thereby stripping the remaining lower ranges of environmental protection, is factually and scientifically accurate.

The bench also wanted to know whether there existed any supplementary issues or systemic vulnerabilities that may emerge during the course of these proceedings that necessitate this court's intervention.

It also asked the expert panel to undertake a comprehensive assessment of the report submitted by the committee.

The court fixed the matter for consideration on January 21, 2026.

Centre welcomes SC stay on its order

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Modi government on Monday welcomed the Supreme Court's decision to stay its order on the 'Aravallis', even as the Congress demanded the resignation of Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav, claiming the apex court had exposed him by rejecting all his arguments in favour of the new definition.

Yadav said he welcomed the SC's stay on its order concerning the Aravalli range and the formation of a new committee to study the issues.

"We stand committed to extending all assistance sought from the MOEFCC in the protection and restoration of the Aravalli range. As things stand, a complete ban on mining remains in place with regard to new mining leases or the renewal of old mining leases," he said.

Congress General Secretary Jairam Ramesh, in a statement, said the party welcomed the SC order but cautioned that it was only a "temporary respite". He said the struggle to save the Aravallis from the "machinations of the Modi government to open it up to mining, real estate and other activities" would have to be resisted in a sustained manner.

Ramesh said the issue would now be studied in greater detail and recalled that the redefinition had been opposed by the Forest Survey of India, the Supreme Court's Central Empowered Committee and the amicus curiae.

"There is now a temporary respite, but the struggle to save the Aravallis from the machinations of the Modi government to open it up to mining, real estate and other activities will have to be resisted in a sustained manner. Today's Supreme Court directive gives a flicker of hope," he said.

"In light of this judgment, the Union Minister for Environment, Forests and Climate Change must resign immediately. It is a rejection of all the arguments he has been advancing in favour of the redefinition," Ramesh added.

JAIRAM RAMESH
Congress general secretary

"It needs to be recalled that the re-definition has been opposed by the Forest Survey of India, the Central Empowered Committee of the Supreme Court, and by the amicus curiae himself.

AADITYA THACKERAY
Shiv Sena (UBT) leader

"The stay order from the Hon'ble Supreme Court for the Aravalli Range is a huge but temporary relief. It's important to seal this permanently

'I am secular': Didi lays foundation for Durga temple

CM's temple spree against BJP's bid to polarise voters

KOLKATA, DHNS

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday claimed to be 'a secular in the true sense' as she laid the foundation of a shrine of Goddess Durga to counter the BJP, which often accuses her and Trinamool Congress of appeasing the Muslims.

"Some people accuse me of indulging in appeasement, but it is not correct. I am secular in the true sense," Mamata said. "I attend events of all religious communities."

"You do not say anything when I visit a Gurdwara but start criticising me when I attend an Eid programme," Mamata tacitly hit out at the BJP, which often criticised her for attending the events of the Muslims. She added that one must love all religions.

The BJP, however, said the TMC government had shifted the venue to a new site after succumbing to pressure from Muslims, who had objected to the construction of the shrine at the originally chosen site.

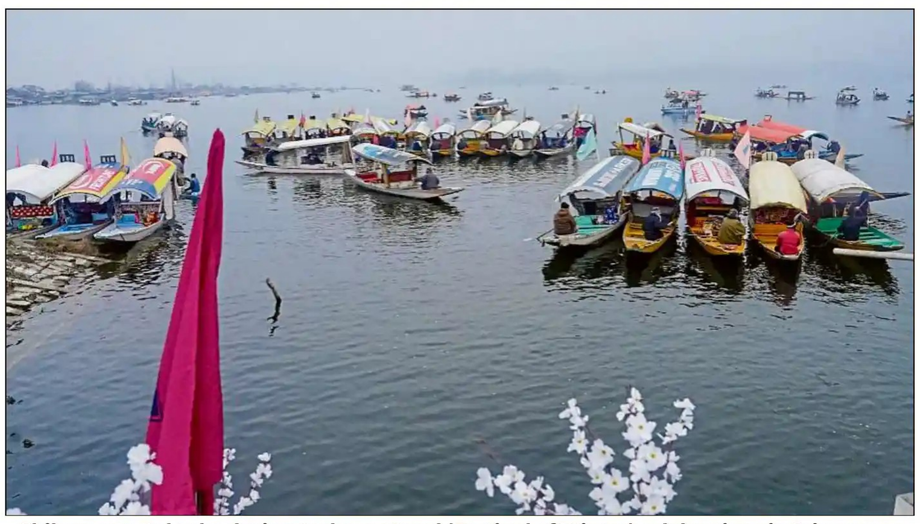
Mamata said the foundation of the temple of Mahakal or Lord Shiva, which she had promised to build in Siliguri in North Bengal, would also be laid next month. "I am giving you some good news. We will lay the foundation of the Mahakal Temple in the second week of January. I have already finalised the date in my mind during the Puja."

Mamata's temple-construction spree is apparently aimed at taking the fizz out of the BJP's bid to polarise the electorate in West Bengal with its aggressive Hindutva.

Suvendu Adhikari, the frontrunner for the chief ministerial face of BJP, has been calling for unity among the Hindus against the 'jihadi' Muslims.

The BJP has accused the TMC of opposing the SIR of electoral rolls to protect its vote bank of illegal Muslim migrants from Bangladesh. The BJP has been alleging that the TMC has been helping illegal migrants from Bangladesh settle down in West Bengal, and changing the demographics profile of the border districts of state.

SEASONAL FEST



Shikaras on Dal Lake during Jashn-e-Wand (Festival of Winter) celebrations in Srinagar on Monday. PTI

Won't rest until he's hanged: Unnao rape survivor

UNNAO/NEW DELHI, PTI:

The Unnao rape case survivor on Monday expressed satisfaction after the Supreme Court stayed a Delhi High Court order suspending the convict Kuldeep Sengar's life sentence and said she has full faith in the justice system.

The apex court, after hearing the CBI's plea challenging the high court's decision, issued a notice to Sengar, directing him to file his response.

"I am very happy with this decision. I have got justice from the Supreme Court. I have been raising my voice for justice from the very beginning," the survivor said.

"I do not make allegations against any court. I have faith in all courts, but the Supreme Court has given me justice and will continue to do so," she said.

She further said, "I will not rest until he is hanged. I will keep fighting. Only then will my family and I get justice. We receive threats even today."

Family members also expressed relief over the Supreme Court's intervention. The survivor's sister said she had complete faith that the court would ensure the accused is not released.

"He is a monster. He first raped my sister and then destroyed the entire family. I am satisfied today. His bail should remain rejected," she said, adding that the family would continue to pursue the case.

The survivor's mother thanked the top court for the relief and told reporters that those who killed her husband should receive death sentence.

Tatanagar-Ernakulam Express catches fire in Andhra; 1 dead

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

A 70-year-old man, Chandrasekhar Sundar, died and several passengers had a miraculous escape after a fire broke out on the Tatanagar–Ernakulam Express near Elamanchili in Andhra Pradesh's Anakapalli district in the early hours of Monday.

Preliminary investigation suggested that the blaze originated near the linen storage area of one of the coaches.

The incident occurred around 12.45 a.m. The loco pilot noticed flames and promptly halted the train, preventing a major disaster.

The fire started in B1 coach and spread to M2 coach; the railway staff quickly detached the coaches to prevent the fire from spreading.

Despite the swift evacuation, Chandrasekhar Sundar was unable to deboard and succumbed to the fire.

Sundar, a resident of Vijayawada, was returning home after visiting his daughter in Visakhapatnam. Rescue teams initially believed everyone had been evacuated, but were shocked to discover his charred body while inspecting the compartment.

Officials said a bundle of burnt currency notes worth nearly Rs 5 lakh and gold ornaments were recovered from Sundar's belongings.

"All passengers deboarded safely except for one person who could not escape. Initial investigations indicate that the fire did not originate from the electrical panel side, which is usually the case, but from the linen storage area. Further inquiry is underway," said a senior South Central Railway (SCR) official.

The train was later moved to Samalkot railway station, where replacement coaches are being arranged.

Railway officials arranged buses to transport passengers to Samalkot.

Senior South Central Railway officers, including the Divisional Railway Manager (Vijayawada) and the Commissioner of Railway Safety, visited the site.

NCP factions unite for Pune civic polls

MUMBAI, DHNS & PTI: Nearly two-and-a-half years after their acrimonious split, the NCP and NCP (SP) sealed an alliance for the upcoming elections to the Pune Municipal Corporation on Monday, a day before the deadline for filing nominations ends.

The fresh tie-up was announced a day after the NCP, a constituent of the ruling Mahayuti alliance, and NCP (Sharadchandra Pawar), a member of the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi, finalised an alliance to contest the municipal corporation elections in Pimpri-Chinchwad, the sister city of Pune.

Over the past few months, Sharad Pawar and his nephew and Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, who is now the NCP president, have been seen together at several public events and family functions.

Sharad Pawar with Ajit Pawar. PTI FILE

"After NCP (SP) Pune unit chief Prashant Jagtap's exit from the party, several workers approached the party working president Supriya Sule and requested the need for joining hands with NCP.

"A decision on the alliance has been taken considering the sentiments of local party workers," said NCP (SP) MLA Rohit Pawar on Monday.

The alliances have been forged to ensure that the election battle becomes easier for both factions, he said, adding that for now, the parties will fight the Pune and Pimpri-Chinchwad civic polls together.

A seat-sharing formula has also been decided, he said, without elaborating further.

The Pune and Pimpri Chinchwad municipal corporations are politically crucial for the Pawar clan, given that several IT and industrial units are located in the jurisdictions of the two civic bodies. The area has remained a bastion of the Pawars for decades.

BJP, Sena seals seat deal for BMC

Meanwhile, ruling allies BJP and Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena will contest 137 and 90 seats, respectively, in the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) polls.

A seat-sharing pact was revealed by Mumbai BJP president Amit Satam on Monday, following hectic parleys a day before the deadline for filing nomination papers closes on December 30.

The Ajit Pawar-led NCP is contesting the BMC polls separately.

Tripura student died of fatal spinal, head injuries: Police

DEHRADUN, PTI: The Uttarakhand Police on Monday said that Anjel Chakma, a Tripura student who died in Dehradun days after allegedly being attacked with knives and brass knuckles, had suffered fatal spinal and head injuries in the assault.

Dehradun Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Ajay Singh said while post-mortem report will be received on Tuesday, the cause of his death, according to preliminary medical reports, is clearly fatal injuries to his spine and head.

Meanwhile, the Uttarakhand government, on the instructions of Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, on Monday also provided financial assistance to the Chakma family and sent a cheque of Rs 4.12 lakh as the first installment, officials said.

As outrage mounted over the killing, Dhami, earlier in the day, spoke to his father Tarun Prasad Chakma on phone and assured him of strict punishment for the accused, officials said.

In a statement, Dhami said, "This is not just the death of a student, but the untimely end of a family's dreams & hopes." The CM said that he has assured the student's father that all the murderers of his son would be arrested soon.

RAHUL GANDHI
LoP in the Lok Sabha

"What happened to Anjel Chakma and his brother Michael in Dehradun is a horrific hate crime. Hate does not appear overnight. For years, it has been fed daily – especially to our youth – through toxic content and irresponsible narratives. And it is being normalised by the hate-spewing leadership of the ruling BJP.

Anjel Chakma, a final-year MBA student at a private university here, was seriously injured when he was allegedly attacked by some youngsters with a knife and a bracelet on December 9. He died on December 26, after being hospitalised for 17 days.

Of the six accused allegedly involved in the murder, five have already been arrested, while Yagyaraj Awasthi, a resident of Kanchanpur district of Nepal, is absconding and a reward of Rs 25,000 has been announced for his capture.

Two of the five accused are minors, while three held have been identified as residents of Manipur currently living in Dehradun.

BJP claims Congress split between Rahul and Priyanka

NEW DELHI, PTI: The BJP on Monday alleged that the Congress has split into two with one being Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's camp and the other that of her brother Rahul Gandhi, and the clamour within the main Opposition party to replace Gandhi with "anyone" is gaining "strength".

There was no immediate reaction from the Congress to the BJP's claim.

The BJP had recently alleged that Gandhi speaks against India and defames the country on foreign soil because he is "rattled" by the fact that his party colleagues and even family members are showing "no confidence" in him. "The Congress has split into two parts. Earlier, we used to see this in Karnataka, Rajasthan and Telangana. But now, there is a split at the national level," BJP national spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla said.

"It's now Rahul's Congress versus Priyanka's Congress," he said, launching a fresh attack on party.

Poonawalla alleged that the split in the Congress has come out in the open after party leader Digvijaya Singh praised the BJP and the RSS.

DIGITAL ARREST

Man poses as ex-CJI Chandrachud, dupes woman of Rs 3.71 cr

MUMBAI, PTI

A man was held from Gujarat for allegedly receiving a major portion of Rs 3.71 crore siphoned off from a 68-year-old Mumbai woman in a "digital arrest" scam, a police official said on Monday.

Cybercriminals posed as personnel from the Colaba police station in South Mumbai as well as central agencies and also staged a fake online court hearing in which one person identified himself to the victim as "Justice Chandrachud", the official said.

"The victim, who stays in Andheri West, was kept under constant watch by the fraudsters who claimed she was under digital arrest in a money-laundering case. The crime took place between August 18 and October 13 this year," he said.

The woman received a call on August 18. "He threatened her against disclosing the matter to anyone and sought her bank details claiming the probe was being transferred to the CBI. The accused, posing as officer S K Jaiswal, even made the victim write a two to three page essay on her life. He then told the victim he was convinced of her innocence and would ensure she got bail," the official said.

"The cybercriminals then made her appear through video call before a person who identified himself as Justice Chandrachud. She was asked to submit her investment details for verification, resulting in her transferring Rs 3.75 crore into multiple bank accounts over a period of two months," said the official.

However, after this, she stopped receiving calls, which convinced her that she had become a victim of online cheating.

Kashmir apple orchard workers face health risks from pesticide exposure

Experts say concerns don't extend to consumers eating apples

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

Kashmir's apple orchards, the backbone of the Valley's economy and a source of nearly 75–78 % of India's apple production, are under renewed scrutiny as health experts and lawmakers raise concerns over the risks posed by prolonged pesticide use for orchard workers.

These concerns do not extend to consumers eating apples, but are concentrated among individuals who handle chemicals daily.

The House Committee on Environment of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, chaired by CPM legislator M Y Tarigami, recently convened a meeting with scientists, medical professionals, and horticulture officials to examine the occupational hazards faced by orchard workers. Discussions focused on decades of pesticide application and its potential link to serious health problems, including malignant brain tumours, in those directly exposed.

Studies conducted at the Valley's tertiary-care hospital - Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) - found that a significant proportion of patients with primary malignant brain tumours were orchard workers or residents living near orchards.

Most had decades of exposure to pesticides such as chlorpyrifos, mancozeb, and captan — chemicals recognized internationally for their neurotoxic and carcinogenic properties. Experts emphasise that these findings reflect occupational exposure, rather than a risk to the general population or consumers of apples.

Doctors also report additional health concerns among orchard workers, including chronic respiratory problems, skin irritations, and early signs of kidney or metabolic dysfunction. Trace levels of pesticides have been detected in the blood of some workers and nearby residents.

Orchard practices in Kashmir involve frequent spraying to protect crops from pests and fungal diseases, sometimes every 10–12 days during the growing season. Many workers cannot afford personal protective equipment such as gloves, masks, or goggles, increasing the likelihood of chronic exposure. Environmental advocates also note that pesticide runoff can affect soil and water.

The panel has recommended steps, including annual health screenings for orchard workers, monitoring of pesticide application, education on safe handling practices, and research on long-term health effects. Experts believe that adopting safer pesticide practices and providing protective gear could significantly reduce health risks for workers .

T'gana factory blast: Kin get death certificates after 6 months

HYDERABAD, DHNS: Six months after the blast at the dryer unit of Sigachi Industries in the Pashamylaram industrial area of Sangareddy district, authorities on Monday issued death certificates to eight workers whose bodies were never recovered.

The missing workers were identified as Rahul Sharma, G Venkatesh, Silver Ravi, Irfan Ansari, S Justin, Vinay Kumar Nishad, and Akilesh Kumar Nishad. The family of another worker, Shivji Kumar, is expected to receive the certificate on Tuesday.

With the issuance of the documents, families of the deceased can now claim insurance, compensation, and property transfer benefits that were held up for months due to the lack of official confirmation of death.

Police have also arrested Amit Raj Sinha, managing director and CEO of Sigachi Industries Limited, in connection with the June 30 explosion that killed 54 workers, one of the worst industrial disasters in Telangana's recent history. Sinha, named as accused no 2, has been booked for culpable homicide and was remanded to 14 days of judicial custody after being produced before the court.

The arrest follows strong remarks from the Telangana High Court, which earlier criticised the police for their lackadaisical approach in investigating the case. The matter is scheduled to come up before the court again on Tuesday.

Migrant worker attacked for reel in TN; 4 juveniles held

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

In a shocking incident, a 20-year-old migrant worker from Odisha was brutally attacked with sickles in Tamil Nadu's Tiruvallur district by four intoxicated juveniles, who also filmed the assault. All four accused have now been apprehended.

The gory incident caught on camera, which went viral, was filmed by one of the attackers, while three of them continuously attacked the migrant worker and fled the scene.

Police said Suraj was travelling in the general compartment of a Chennai-Tiruttani local EMU train on Saturday evening when the four juveniles, who were allegedly under the influence of drugs, boarded at Thiruvalangadu railway station near Arakkonam. The juveniles wanted to record an Instagram reel and post it on their social media pages, with police saying that they concealed sickles in their bags.

"One of the juveniles initiated a conversation with Suraj and asked whether they could place a sickle on his neck for shooting a reel. He objected and this led to an argument. The argument continued till Tiruttani railway station," a police officer said.

At the station, the juveniles forced Suraj to accompany them to a nearby abandoned railway quarters. "This is where they attacked him and filmed the incident," the officer added.

Suraj, who became unconscious, came out of the quarters after gaining consciousness, following which he was treated at the government hospital. He is currently recuperating at Tiruvallur Government Medical College Hospital.

Police arrested the accused after the video went viral. A case has been registered against them on charges of attempt to murder and criminal intimidation. They were sent to the government observation home in Chengalpattu.

AIADMK leader Edappadi K Palaniswami termed the incident a chilling symbol of the total collapse of law and order under the DMK.

UP: Rabies panic after villagers consume raita made from infected buffalo's milk

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

Scores of residents of a village in UP's Budaun district were administered anti-rabies shots after it emerged that they had consumed "raita" made with curd prepared from the milk of a buffalo that died after being bitten by a rabid dog.

According to local reports, as many as 200 residents of the Piproul Pukhta village in the district were given anti-rabies shots at the Community Health Centre at Ujhani and other private hospitals on Saturday.

Health officials said people started making a beeline to the health centre since early morning.

Special counters had to be set up at the centre to administer anti-rabies shots to panic-stricken residents, reports said.

The locals said a "terahwain bhoj" — a community feast on the 13th day after someone's death — was organised a few days ago in the village, where the raita made with curd using the milk of a buffalo that a dog had bitten was served.

The buffalo subsequently died from suspected rabies, triggering panic among people who had consumed the raita.

Fearing that they might be affected as well, they rushed to the health centre for anti-rabies shots.

Veterinary doctors said rabies could not usually be transmitted if the milk was properly boiled, and that it was transmitted through the bites and scratches of an infected animal.

A health official said in Budaun that whosoever reached the centre for the anti-rabies shots was given it as a preventive measure.

MISCELLANY

◆COMICS◆

Blondie

WOW, YOU'RE UP EARLY!
YEP, JUST STRETCHING BEFORE I DO 40 REPS!
40 REPS OF WHAT?
ACTUALLY, 40 WINKS! AFTER A PILLOW-CRUNCH AND COUCH-PRESS
I CALL IT NAP-AEROBICS!! C'MON, BUMSTEAD, YOU GOTTA WANT IT!!
HE CAN EASILY DO OVER 40 WINKS IN HIS SLEEP!
SKNXXX

Hagar The Horrible

WHAT'S YOUR SECRET TO A HAPPY MARRIAGE?
COMMUNICATION! BUT NOT TOO MUCH COMMUNICATION! IT'S NOT GOOD TO SHARE ALL YOUR DIRTY DEEDS!
TOO LATE FOR THAT! I'VE BEEN DOING YOUR LAUNDRY!

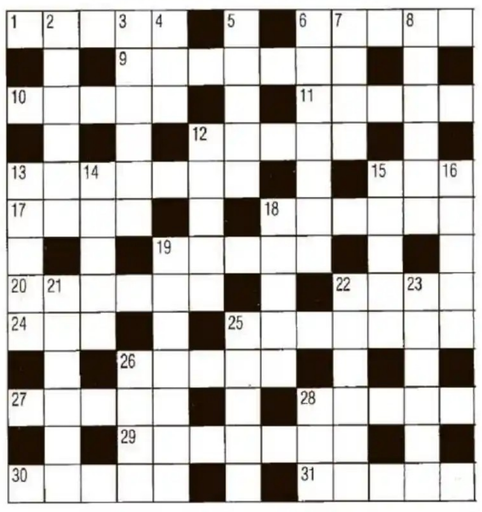
Beetle Bailey

Peanuts

I DON'T KNOW WHY I EVEN KEEP YOU ON OUR TEAM...
I HAVE BOX OFFICE APPEAL, THAT'S WHY!
WE DON'T HAVE A BOX OFFICE!
IF YOU EVER GET A BOX OFFICE, I BET I'LL APPEAL TO IT!!

Marvin

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12320



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
1 Consecrate a bonehead to a minor degree (5)
6 Fatherly flower? (5)
9 There's nothing in the box but some art work (7)
10 Brownie fairly short of cash (5)
11 Might one include musical chairs? (5)
12 Crystal clear paste, perhaps (5)
13 It's rational for a girl to be in a fancy belt (7)
15 Cannot he quite toss back his drinks? (3)
17 Race starter (4)
18 Having gone off in bad odour? (6)
19 A reasonable start in some parts (5)
20 Agreement to try out a new blend of tea (6)
22 A bet in school, perhaps (4)
24 Thus the head of state gets the message (3)
25 Being a top name, did something original (7)
26 Points out a figure for fatheads (5)
27 Take off for rambling trips (5)
28 Boy in a bar with a burglar (5)
29 Put an edge on things (7)
30 Being unfriendly at public relations could be costly (5)
31 Without them, could be top speed (5)

DOWN
2 Finding one's riches a burden? (6)
3 A very funny cry? (6)
4 You have yours as a personal view (3)
5 What the robber did, and went quietly (5)
6 Marsupials with a deceptive way of playing (7)
7 The responsibility to ring an early riser up (4)
8 At the pump, can it be priced per lot? (6)
12 This be a fairly common exclamation (5)
13 Up in the stratosphere, you need something to eat (5)
14 Deceptive means of identification? (5)
15 A rake's inclination? (5)
16 Tapped out a message (5)
18 They may have a livening smell (5)
19 A weakness for glorious silverware? (7)
21 He's getting even worse! (6)
22 Frenchman making little difference to Arlene (6)
23 Be in league to get the side promoted (4,2)
25 Delivery flier (5)
26 Is in the District of Columbia, being circular (4)
28 Black aircraft? (3)

ACROSS
1 Maltreat (5)
6 Flies high (5)
9 Uncover or reveal (3,4)
10 Bar of gold (5)
11 Organs for breathing (5)
12 Irritates (5)
13 Infectious disease (7)
15 Enemy (3)
17 Prayer ending (4)
18 Thin cord (6)
19 Surrenders (5)
20 Saffron (6)
22 Gaelic (4)
24 Farmyard bird (3)
25 Portion (7)
26 Girl's name (5)
27 Death-dealing (5)
28 Stinging insects (5)
29 Melodious (7)
30 Runs away (5)
31 Fashionable (5)

DOWN
2 Breed of small fowl (6)
3 Catchword (6)
4 Consume (3)
5 Bulgaria's capital (5)
6 Chooses (7)
7 Burden (4)
8 Area (6)
12 Goes up (5)
13 Game (5)
14 Fruit (5)
15 Fine thread (5)
16 Wading bird (5)
18 Number (5)
19 Cloud type (7)
21 Recollect (6)
22 Preserve after death (6)
23 Hidden gunman (6)
25 Having a pleasant taste (5)
26 Identical (4)
28 Used to be (3)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12319

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 3, P-lace 8, Rome-O 10, (f)Rigid 11, Let 12, Pared 13, Not half 15, Den-I-s 18, Era 19, Pirate 21, F-re-ight 22, Thos. 23, SE-LL 24, Pl-eased 26, A-St.-ray 29, S-I-N 31, Steam 32, Seraphs 34, Gen.-ES 35, Ta-R 36, Steel 37, Mote-L 38, D-and-y.
DOWN: 1, Solos 2, Tethers 4, Leaf 5, Credi-t 6, Eider 7, Limit 9, Me-t 12, Pl-ainl-y 14, A-re 16, Naked 17, Seals 19, Phrases 20, (Mt.) Atlas 21, For-te 23, Senator 24, Pamela 25, Sir 27, St.-ate 28, Raged 30, Three 32, S-end 33, Pat.

EASY
ACROSS: 3, Igloo 8, Canoe 10, Snout 11, Gen 12, Flaps 13, Gleeful 15, Reach 18, Tin 19, Settee 21, Honesty 22, Trio 23, Diet 24, Gastric 26, Repeal 29, Tar 31, Snort 32, Benefit 34, Recur 35, Cot 36, Cocoa 37, Straw 38, Lucky.
DOWN: 1, Eagle 2, None too 4, Gill 5, Osprey 6, Onset 7, Juice 9, Nee 12, Funeral 14, Fin 16, Attic 17, Hefty 19, Stutter 20, Stars 21, Hippo 23, Directs 24, Gateau 25, Ran 27, Enjoy 28, Errol 30, Vital 32, Buck 33, For.

◆SU-DO-KU-6790◆

	8						2	
9			2			1		8
		7	8			9		
			5		2		6	
4								1
	7		6		9			2
		9			6	3		
8		1			5			6
	3						4	

hard

7	8	9	4	5	6	3	1	2
6	2	1	9	7	3	5	8	4
3	4	5	8	1	2	9	6	7
9	5	3	2	8	7	1	4	6
1	6	2	3	4	5	8	7	9
8	7	4	1	6	9	2	5	3
5	9	6	7	2	1	4	3	8
2	1	8	6	3	4	7	9	5
4	3	7	5	9	8	6	2	1

SOLUTION TO 6789

To solve the puzzle:
To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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D2	C3	V4	O1	O1	A1	A1	2nd Letter Triple	RACK 1
G2	N1	I1	D2	E1	L1	W4		RACK 2
T1	A1	A1	E1	N1	N1	N1	Double Word Score	RACK 3
R1	M3	I1	K5	R1	S1	Y4	Triple Word Score	RACK 4

PAR SCORE 160-170
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

S1	E1	R1	I1	O1	U1	S1	RACK 1	= 57
T1	H4	R1	I1	F4	T1	Y4	RACK 2	= 74
M3	U1	F4	F4	I1	N1	S1	RACK 3	= 80
P3	R1	I1	M3	E1	D2		RACK 4	= 11

PAR SCORE 145-155 — JUDD'S TOTAL 222

JUMBLE®

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SFYIH

FRTDA

NUSILF

LVEECR

This wouldn't have happened if you'd let me help.
I know. It didn't seem too hard to do alone.
THE INJURY HE RECEIVED WHILE MAKING THE BOOKCASE WAS ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @Play.Jumble

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

"○○○○○○" - ○○○○○○○○○

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: TIGER FOYER JALOPY NEARLY
Answer: When the macaws put on a play, it was a — "PARROTY"

HITORI-3244

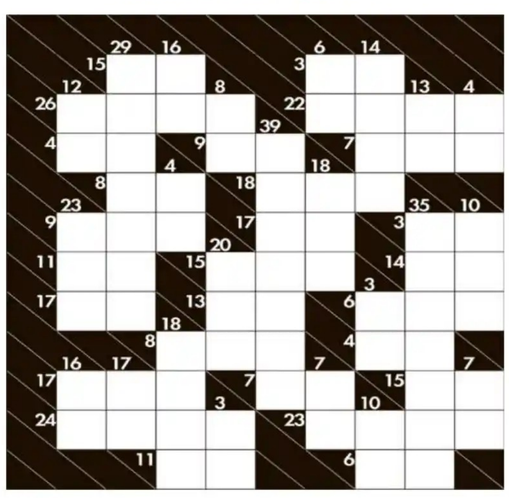
2	3	6	8	4	5	3	3
1	6	3	7	3	2	3	3
3	4	3	6	6	8	2	1
6	1	2	1	3	4	8	8
5	8	1	4	3	3	1	3
3	5	7	3	1	6	3	2
4	3	8	2	3	7	6	5
7	4	4	6	2	3	5	3

SOLUTION TO 3243

1	2	■	8	7	3	5	■
■	6	2	4	3	■	1	7
3	5	■	7	■	8	4	6
4	■	7	■	5	2	■	1
■	8	4	2	6	5	7	■
6	1	■	5	■	7	3	8
■	7	1	3	8	■	6	2
7	3	■	1	■	4	8	■

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3244



SOLUTION TO 3243

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3781

■							8	4
	8					■		7
		■			4		■	2
		1	3		■			
				5	9			
		3	■		■	2		
7		■	5			■		8
	■	9			3		6	
■				4	6			

SOLUTION TO 3780

9	5	2	3	6	4	7	8	1
4	1	3	8	7	9	6	5	2
8	7	6	5	1	2	4	9	3
1	2	9	4	3	6	5	7	8
5	6	8	7	2	1	3	4	9
7	3	4	9	8	5	1	2	6
6	9	7	2	4	3	8	1	5
2	8	1	6	5	7	9	3	4
3	4	5	1	9	8	2	6	7

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

Lalit Modi apologises for 'biggest fugitives' remark

LONDON, PTI: IPL founder Lalit Modi on Monday apologised for calling himself and Vijay Mallya the "two biggest fugitives" of India in a video posted on social media and said that his statement was "misconstrued".

In the now-deleted video from Mallya's 70th birthday celebrations in London, Lalit Modi joked about the pair's status as the "two biggest fugitives" of India.

Issuing an apology, Lalit Modi said in an X post, "I apologise if I have hurt anyone feelings, especially the Indian Government, whom I have the highest respect and regard for."

"The statement was misconstrued and was never intended to be as played out," the founding commissioner of the Indian Premier League (IPL) added. He concluded the post by offering "deepest" apologies.

The apology came days after India stated that it is committed to bringing back from abroad economic fugitives, including Lalit Modi and Mallya, to face the law in the country.

Both Lalit Modi and Mallya face legal challenges in India around allegations of financial impropriety, which they both have denied.

Russia claims attack on Putin's residence; peace talks hit

Ukraine denies accusation as fabrication to block peace

MOSCOW/KYIV, REUTERS

Russia accused Ukraine on Monday of trying to attack President Vladimir Putin's residence in northern Russia, although it provided no evidence to back up the assertion, which Kyiv dismissed as baseless and designed to undermine peace negotiations.

The angry exchanges — including a statement by Russia that it was reviewing its stance in negotiations in response to the alleged attack — dealt a new blow to prospects for peace in Ukraine.

On Sunday, US President Donald Trump met President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Florida and said they were "getting a lot closer, maybe very close" to an agreement to end the war, although "thorny" territorial issues remained.

Putin also struck a defiant tone on Monday, telling his army to press on with a campaign to take full control of Zaporizhzhia region, while the Kremlin repeated demands for Kyiv to pull its forces out of the last part of the Donbas area.

Russian President Vladimir Putin chairs a security meeting on the "special military operation" against Ukraine in Moscow on Monday. AFP

Putin told Trump by phone that Russia, which invaded Ukraine in February 2022, was reviewing its stance following the reported drone attack, an aide said. Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said Ukraine had tried to attack Putin's residence in the Novgorod region west of Moscow on December 28–29 with 91 long-range drones, all of which were destroyed by Russian air defences. No one was injured and there was no damage, he said in comments reported by Russian media.

"Such reckless actions will not go unanswered," the veteran foreign minister said, describing the alleged attack as "state terrorism" and adding that targets had already been selected for retaliatory strikes by Russia's armed forces.

Lavrov did not provide any evidence for his assertions. It was not clear where Putin was at the time. Lavrov noted that the alleged attack took place during negotiations about a possible peace deal, and said Russia would review its negotiating stance but would not quit the talks.

VOLODYMYR ZELENSKYY
Ukraine President

"Another round of lies from the Russian Federation

Denying that Ukraine had planned such an attack, Zelenskyy accused Moscow of preparing the ground to strike government buildings in Kyiv, saying Russia wanted to undermine progress at US-Ukrainian talks on ending the war. "Another round of lies from the Russian Federation," Zelenskyy said. "I am sure they are simply preparing the ground for strikes, probably on the capital, probably on government buildings."

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha said on X the allegation was a fabrication intended to create a pretext for more Russian attacks on Ukraine and to undermine the peace process.

US offers Ukraine 15-year security guarantee

KYIV, AP/PTI: The United States is offering Ukraine security guarantees for a period of 15 years as part of a proposed peace plan, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Monday, though he said he would prefer an American commitment of up to 50 years to deter Russia from further attempts to seize its neighbour's land by force.

US President Donald Trump hosted Zelenskyy at his Florida resort on Sunday and insisted that Ukraine and Russia are "closer than ever before" to a peace settlement.

Negotiators are still searching for a breakthrough on key issues, including whose forces withdraw from where and the fate of the Russian-occupied Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, one of the 10 biggest in the world. Trump noted that the months-long US-led negotiations could still collapse. "Without security guarantees, realistically, this war will not end," Zelenskyy told reporters.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

A US Air Force C-130J Super Hercules aircraft approaches for landing at Rafael Hernandez Airport, amid tensions between US and Venezuela, in Aguadilla, Puerto Rico, on Sunday. REUTERS

Trump admin pledges $2 billion for UN humanitarian assistance

▸ The US on Monday announced a $2 billion pledge for UN humanitarian aid as President Donald Trump's administration continues to slash US foreign assistance and warns United Nations agencies to "adapt, shrink or die" in a time of new financial realities, AP/PTI reports from Geneva.

The money is a small fraction of what the US has contributed in the past but reflects what the administration believes is a generous amount that will maintain the United States' status as the world's largest humanitarian donor. The pledge creates an umbrella fund from which money will be doled out to individual agencies and priorities, a key part of US demands for drastic changes across the world body that have alarmed many humanitarian workers and led to severe reductions in programs and services. The $2 billion is only a sliver of traditional US humanitarian funding for UN-backed programs, which has run as high as $17 billion annually in recent years, according to UN data. US officials say only $8-$10 billion of that has been in voluntary contributions.

Mexico train accident kills 13

▸ Officials said a train accident in southern Mexico killed at least 13 people and injured dozens, halting traffic along a rail line connecting the Pacific Ocean with the Gulf of Mexico, AP/PTI reports from Mexico City.

The Interoceanic Train linking the states of Oaxaca and Veracruz went off the rails Sunday as it passed a curve near the town of Nizanda. "The Mexican Navy has informed me that, tragically, 13 people died in the Interoceanic Train accident," Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum posted on X, adding that 98 people are injured, five of them seriously. She said she instructed the secretary of the navy and the undersecretary of human rights of the Ministry of the Interior to travel to the site and personally assist the families.

China holds mega drills around Taiwan

BEIJING, PTI

China on Monday launched massive military drills in the middle areas of the Taiwan Strait as a "punitive and deterrent" action against Taiwan's separatist forces, days after the US announced a record $11.1 billion arms sales to Taipei.

The two drills, in which a host of advanced fighter jets, long-range rockets and naval ships are involved, came amid rising diplomatic tensions with Japan over Taiwan that Beijing claims as its territory.

"The Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Eastern Theatre Command is employing fighters, bombers and unmanned aerial vehicles in coordination with long-range rocket fires to conduct drills in the waters and airspace in the middle areas of the Taiwan Strait on Monday," a Chinese military announcement said.

China has been conducting high-intensity military exercises around Taiwan since 2022, following then US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taipei. This is the sixth such drill.

These exercises are widely interpreted as rehearsals for military action against the self-governing island which Beijing claims as part of its mainland.

The drills are a punitive and deterrent action against separatist forces who seek "Taiwan independence" through military build-up, and a necessary move to safeguard China's national sovereignty and territorial integrity, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian told a media briefing here.

Iranian traders, shopkeepers protest as currency hits record low

TEHRAN, AP/PTI: Iranian traders and shopkeepers staged a second day of protests on Monday after the country's currency plummeted to a new record low against the US dollar.

Videos on social media showed hundreds taking part in rallies in Saadi Street in downtown Tehran as well as in the Shush neighbourhood near Tehran's main Grand Bazaar, which played a crucial role in the 1979 Islamic Revolution that ousted the monarchy and brought Islamists to power.

Witnesses said that traders shut their shops and asked others to do the same. The semiofficial ILNA news agency said many businesses and merchants stopped trading even though some kept their shops open.

BUSINESS & ECONOMY

Class of 2000 commits Rs 100 cr to IIT Kanpur

BENGALURU, DHNS: Twenty-five years after graduating from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur, the 'Class of 2000' — often referred to as the Millennium Batch— has returned to its alma mater with a Rs 100-crore commitment.

At their silver jubilee reunion held in Kanpur, the alumni announced a collective contribution of Rs 100 crore to establish the Millennium School of Technology and Society (MSTAS) at IIT Kanpur.

The proposed school is envisioned as a hub for integrating technology, policy, and societal transformation, and the contribution is among the largest ever made by a single graduating batch to an academic institution in the country, IIT Kanpur said in a LinkedIn post.

Silver surges Rs 3,650 to hit new record

NEW DELHI, PTI: Silver prices extended the record-setting rally for the fifth straight day on Monday, jumping Rs 3,650 to Rs 2,40,000 per kg in the national capital due to persistent buying by traders, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

The white precious metal had closed at Rs 2,36,350 per kg on Friday.

So far this year, silver prices have delivered remarkable returns, surging 167.55%, or Rs 1,50,300, from Rs 89,700 per kg recorded on December 31, 2024.

Meanwhile, gold of 99.9% purity retreated from its record levels by declining Rs 500 to Rs 1,41,800 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes).

Industrial output growth jumps to 2-year high of 6.7% in November

Restocking after festive sales boosts mfg activities

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Industrial output growth rose to an over two-year high of 6.7% in November from a paltry 0.5% recorded in the previous month, led by strong performance of the manufacturing sector, official data showed on Monday.

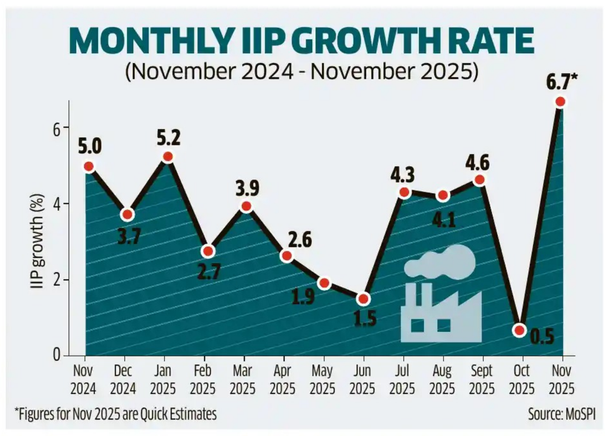
Manufacturing growth quadrupled to 8% in November from 2% in October. After a gap of nine months, all six use-based sectors posted positive growth. Consumer non-durable sector registered a robust growth of 7.3%, highest in 25 months. Output of consumer durables increased by 10.3% in November, year-on-year.

High consumer non-durable growth post festive season, according to Devendra Kumar Pant, Chief Economist, India Ratings and Research, suggests that the inventories both with wholesaler and manufacturer have exhausted and the demand is likely to continue.

"These numbers have given anecdotal evidence that the GST rationalisation has pushed demand in the economy," Pant said.

"Factors such as GST rationalisation, income tax relief, and easing inflation have boded well for the consumption scenario," said Rajani Sinha, Chief Economist, CareEdge Ratings.

Average growth in factory output, measured in terms of the IIP, stood at 3.3% in April-November 2025 as compared with the corresponding period of the last year.



Despite the demand boost spurred by GST rationalisation, IIP growth averaged at 3.6% during October-November 2025, lower than the 4.3% growth registered in July-September period. Average growth in consumer non-durables remained dull at 1.3% in October-November, trailing the 4.3% rise in consumer durables segment.

"The impact of the US tariffs and penalties is likely to reflect across some of the manufacturing segments, partly offsetting the positive impact of the GST rate rejig," said Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist, ICRA.

According to her, the November upswing reflects the "shift in the festive calendar, restocking after the festive season sales, as well as some normalisation in activity across the mining and electricity segments following the excess unseasonal rains in the previous month."

November 2025 IIP growth is the highest since 11.9% expansion recorded in November 2023. In November 2024 the IIP growth stood at 5%.

Mining sector recorded a growth of 5.4% in November against a contraction of 1.8% registered in the previous month. Mining growth has "rebounded due to closure of monsoon season and strong growth in metallic minerals such as iron ore," the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation stated.

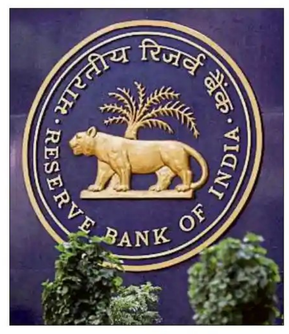
Electricity production, while still in contraction, showed signs of recovery. The contraction in electricity output narrowed to 1.5% in November from 6.9% in the previous month. "Electricity demand has expanded in December 2025 after a gap of two months, which should boost power generation in the month, augurring well for IIP growth in the month," Nayar said.

"We expect the IIP growth to ease to 3.5-5.0% in December 2025, as the base effect normalises and the benefit from restocking wanes," she added.

Asset quality of banks at its best in decades: RBI

Mounting consumer grievances, digital frauds key concerns

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS



Asset quality of Indian banks is at its best in decades supported by double-digit balance sheet expansion in 2024-25, sustained profitability and high capital buffers, as per a report released by the RBI on Monday.

The GNPA ratio, which measures bad loans as a share of total lending, fell to 2.1% at September-end, slightly better than 2.2% recorded in March.

The GNPA of Indian banks at September-end was the lowest in several decades. This is the reflection of the improvement in asset quality.

NBFCs also recorded robust performance, supported by double-digit credit growth, improved asset quality and comfortable capital buffers, the RBI said in the 'Trend and Progress of Banking in India 2024-25' report.

The consolidated balance sheet of scheduled commercial banks, excluding RRBs, increased by 11.2% in 2024-25 on a year-on-year basis. On the assets side, bank credit and investments increased by 11.5% and 9.2%, respectively. On the liabilities side, deposits increased by 11.1% in 2024-25.

India's commercial banking sector consists of 12 PSBs, 21 private sector banks, 44 foreign banks, 11 small finance banks, six payments banks, 43 RRBs, and two local area banks as of March 2025.

Out of these 139 commercial banks, 135 were classified as scheduled banks, while four were non-scheduled.

The share of PSBs in the consolidated balance sheet of SCBs declined to 54.9% at March-end 2025 from 55.2% at March-end 2024.

Profitability of the SCBs remained robust with the return on assets at 1.4% and return on equity (RoE) at 13.5% in 2024-25. During the first half of the current fiscal, the return on asset and return on equity of the SCBs declined to 1.3% and 12.5%, respectively.

The RBI, however, flagged the rising cases of digital frauds and mounting consumer grievances. "While substantial progress has been made in improving consumer services, rising grievances continue to be a matter of concern," it said.

The central bank noted that consumer protection is fundamental to strengthening trust and confidence in the financial system. "This, in turn, rests on fair treatment of customers and an efficient grievance redressal mechanism," it said.

The RBI said it is working with different stakeholders, including the Ministry of Home Affairs, to develop and operationalise measures to curb digital and cyber fraud.

Zepto files for Rs 11k cr IPO

BENGALURU, REUTERS

Quick commerce firm Zepto has filed for an IPO worth Rs 11,000 crore ($1.22 billion) through the confidential route, it said on Monday, in what is expected to be among the country's most anticipated listings in 2026.

Quick-commerce firms in India are locked in an intense battle for market share, pouring in billions to open more stores as India's growing urban consumer base increasingly opts for 10-minute deliveries for everything from groceries to electronics.

The Bengaluru-based company was valued at $7 billion in its previous funding round in October, when it raised $450 million.

'B'luru orders 88L units Nandini milk'

BENGALURU, DHNS: With 88 lakh units sold in 2025, the most ordered item in Bengaluru was Nandini milk, followed by tomatoes (78 lakh units) and Bingo chips (21 lakh). From everyday essentials to unexpected combinations, quick commerce platform Zepto's latest trends data offers a snapshot of how India shopped over the year.

During 2025, the Zepto app was opened 3,46,41,64,197 times, the quick commerce platform said on Monday.

Arvind Fashions to buy Flipkart Group's 31.25% stake in AYBPL

BENGALURU, DHNS: Casual wear and denim company Arvind Fashions on Monday said it will acquire Flipkart Group's 31.25% stake in Arvind Youth Brands Pvt Ltd (AYBPL) for Rs 135 crore, making it a wholly-owned subsidiary.

AYBPL is currently engaged in the business of wholesale and retail of apparel and accessories under the brand Flying Machine. The turnover of AYBPL for fiscal ended March 31, 2025, was Rs 432.16 crore, the company said in a regulatory filing.

Upon completion of the acquisition, the company, along with its wholly-owned subsidiary Arvind Lifestyle Brands Ltd, will hold 100% of the total shareholding in AYBPL on a fully-diluted basis.

The company shall acquire 31.25% of the total shareholding of AYBPL on a fully-diluted basis, comprising 1 equity share of Rs 10 each and 58,95,852 Compulsory Convertible Preference Shares of Rs 100 each, upon closing of the transaction.

Artificial Intelligence in recruitment needs to get better

VIJAY PRAKASH SRIVASTAVA

Artificial Intelligence is rapidly transforming the business landscape, improving efficiency and speed. AI applications are available across various business segments, and the option to customise them for individual firms' needs further enhances their acceptance and popularity.

HR is an area where AI has proven highly useful. The power of AI is being leveraged in various HR functions, including recruitment. Recruitment is a core HR activity, followed by onboarding, training, and development.

Recruitment is usually a time-consuming process. In a country like India, where a single vacancy can attract thousands of applications, the challenge of shortlisting candidates and scheduling the selection process is significant. Thankfully, the trend of physical applications is coming to an end, and AI is now handling e-applications and resumes.

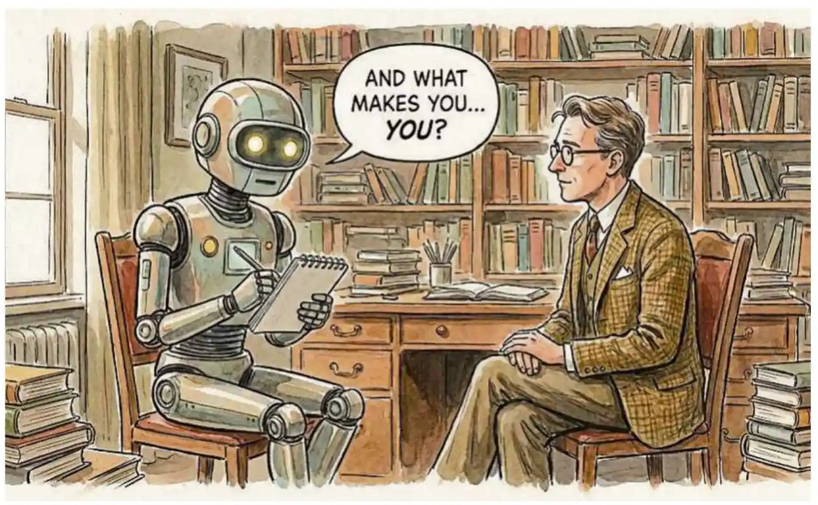
In our country, private-sector companies and start-ups have taken the lead in AI-based recruitment. Also, several companies have emerged to provide platforms and technology for this.

Companies find many advantages in using AI to meet their manpower needs. Whomever we talked to mentioned time saving as the biggest advantage. Using AI in recruitment means delegating administrative tasks to intelligent tools—automating routine tasks, such as resume screening and scheduling, results in substantial time savings. With AI's ability to analyse and process large datasets, firms can identify pockets where suitable candidates are found and predict candidate success based on historical data. These pockets include social media platforms and professional network sites. Specific AI tools can schedule interviews, send follow-up emails, and track all recruitment activities.

The work begins with predictive analytics to analyse past hiring data and use AI to forecast future staffing needs, enabling proactive recruitment strategies and workforce planning. Business expansion is also taken into account for assessing manpower requirements.

Carefully designed AI systems can provide an objective evaluation of a candidate by targeting specific skills, experience and other predefined criteria. Use of these systems is expected to give way to a more meritocratic and objective process.

We can continue to list the advantages of using AI in recruitment, but can we rely entirely on it and consider it foolproof? It is still a work in progress, and it has its own pitfalls. Continuous evaluation of the process and results, adding intelligence to the tools to make them



more sophisticated, and investments in other areas promise a bright future for AI-based recruitment.

AI in recruitment processes handles a large volume of candidates' personal data, which may contain sensitive information. If a data breach occurs, it may result in significant financial and reputational damage to the firm. Therefore, strict compliance with data protection regulations and robust cybersecurity measures should be implemented.

We should remember that, while we may be using machines and machine learning in recruitment, we're not recruiting machines or robots. Humanising AI is a significant challenge, and it also applies to AI in recruitment.

AI algorithms are meant to learn from historical data, which might contain unconscious human biases. If not handled properly, AI tools may perpetuate these biases. This will lead to discriminatory hiring practices and unethical hiring decisions.

The AI engines are trained on years of historical data that relies on firms hiring more men than women. The algorithm incorporates the bias and scales it across the entire candidate pool. Other issues include preferring candidates from certain institutes (e.g., top IIMs), penalising study and career gaps, which are more common among women, and favouring candidates whose resumes are drafted in a particular way. Human recruiters also make mistakes, but there is a difference. When a human recruiter makes a biased decision, it affects one or two candidates; when an AI makes that decision, a large number of candidates are affected systematically and invisibly.

AI in recruitment relies on pattern matching, which should also be subject to scrutiny. A candidate who scored well in 10+2, joined a top engineering college, got campus selection in a leading analytics firm, will be preferable as a lateral hire than the one who after becoming an engineering graduate remained jobless for a few months, then joined a consultancy; while working taught herself advanced analytics and now wants to make a career switch in a related role. This candidate's motivation may be higher, but we can't be sure whether AI will recognise it.

The very diversity that firms want to bring into their HR may get ignored in AI recruitment. AI is efficient at information processing, whereas humans are good at interpreting context. AI can find correlations in available data, but it isn't equipped to understand the causal relationship and contextual nuances that make someone a better hire.

AI is a modern tool, but it is more inclined towards conformity than discretion. In recruitment, it may judge candidates based on past performance but fail to recognise their potential. AI-based recruitment should also be studied from the angle of candidates' experience. For some, an automated tool may be less threatening, but automated rejections without feedback or encouragement, mechanical interviews without a human interviewer, and questions that read more like interrogation than conversation may not be a pleasant experience, even for promising candidates. Firms may be using AI to improve efficiency in their HR processes while overlooking factors that attract top candidates, such as a sense of value and understanding.

Despite its limitations, AI in recruitment will be used increasingly. We can see it improving and hope it becomes more reliable. At least for roles where the stakes are higher, it should be used with extra care and alongside in-person assessment and evaluation. A hybrid model is always better than a standalone model. The cost savings from AI-based recruitment shouldn't come at the expense of a wrong hire.

(The author is based in Mumbai)

The forgotten library

By rediscovering the value of libraries, students can gain a sense of the traditional learning process, writes Anitha Ramachander

I still remember my college library, where I could smell the pages, what we call Bibliosmia. Once we opened the doors to the college library, we sensed a cosy blend of dust, old paper, and silence. To my generation, the library was not just a room with shelves; it was a place to work on our assignments. It taught us patience, inquisitiveness, modesty, and discipline. These qualities subtly influenced our reading, writing, and thinking. We were students, and we learned. There were no shortcuts. We immediately conducted a second search when one of the references could not be found. When a book was out of stock, we waited, borrowed, or negotiated with a librarian, who often had better judgment than the catalogue itself. We had been trained to scan, skim, cross-match, and cross-reference concepts. It was a slower, more deliberate way of writing. Reading was not merely schoolwork; it was a process.

Libraries taught us to think carefully before we write. Someone might discover you when you quote out of context, whether you are in front of your teacher, peers in class, or even your conscience. You gained the admiration of authorship. It was not about being clever, as you wrote, but about being specific and unique.

I recall reading a single topic across four books to understand and internalise the point. That effort mattered. It developed our intellectual strength. It sharpened our language. This gave us confidence as writers. We could write what we knew, which was not how we would write using algorithms today.

Nowadays, I see something unbelievable: empty libraries with no one inside. They are filled with shelves but lack readers.

The same cannot be said for technology or AI. What is concerning is how the convenience of using technology is replacing thinking. Many students today do not even bother to verify sources, exchange ideas, or question authenticity. Production, replication, copying, and pasting content occur without knowledge, consideration, or ownership. The habit of inquisitiveness is gradually fading away.

Learning to ask questions more effectively is also educational, not just about finding answers. This skill is naturally cultivated in libraries. A library stimulates curiosity. You go out to get a book and come back with three. You realise that you have been looking at things you never intended to examine. It is a challenging form of learning in which information is presented to learners. This environment fosters creativity by allowing the mind to explore without bias.

AI cannot replace the habit of reading broadly, the joy of rediscovering a forgotten author, or the pleasure of connecting ideas across different books. As a result, students miss the most vital part of learning: trusting their own thinking instead of relying solely on generated content.

More importantly, libraries teach you to locate sources, synthesise insights, draw correlations, and share knowledge. This skill is largely lost when content is delivered all at once, without references. It also diminishes the appreciation of the output when Artificial Intelligence tools produce everything. While students' use of AI does not concern me personally, I feel that they are less engaged with the material. AI is replacing the ability to verify, interpret and reflect.

Libraries are not outdated; the real problem is that our habits are evolving. Students should be encouraged to read more to improve their writing. They need exposure to complex texts to develop a strong mind. Nothing can replace the skills gained through reading, questioning, and verification in the library. Students should not only reclaim the library's physical space but also its mindset. They should sit with a book, argue with it, and also learn to disagree with the author. Take notes and rephrase sentences in their own words. I don't mean they should write only through sheer hard work, but rather through quick, thoughtful effort, because the best writers are not the fastest but the most thoughtful.

Those who can think and express their ideas in writing will always stand out among students. It is not those who constantly absorb information but those who can understand, question, and wisely acquire knowledge who will shape the future. The use of traditional writing and libraries is part of the past, but remains an essential component of a good education. By rediscovering the value of libraries, students can regain a sense of the traditional learning process and, accordingly, restore confidence, clarity, and meaning.

However, young people spend more time on social media than on other activities. They are in a rush for no meaningful purpose and have low attention spans. Even governments are thinking about it. Australia has banned more than 1 million social media accounts linked to users under 16, a measure that has sparked debate.

Meanwhile, words of T S Eliot, "The very existence of libraries affords the best evidence that we may yet have hope for the future of man," remind us that libraries patiently await a future generation that will take the time to rediscover the joy of learning the hard but righteous way.

(The author is an academic)

BULLETIN BOARD

College representative (marketing) internship
Tripple One Solutions is hiring college representative (marketing) interns who can work from home. Students with knowledge of marketing strategy can apply by January 21. The stipend is Rs 3,000-15,000 / month. Apply at: https://tinyurl.com/y9wu9a2t.

Community management Internship
Pawzz Foundation is hiring community management interns who can work from home. Students with advanced proficiency in Excel, business analysis and research, effective communication, strong spoken and written English, MS Excel, MS Office, MS Word, networking, problem-solving, project management, and time management can apply by January 21. The stipend is Rs 1,500-15,000 /month. Apply at: https://tinyurl.com/mr3mzr2c.

Creative content internship
Innovfix Private Limited is hiring creative content interns in Bengaluru. Students with knowledge of content management, content writing, creative thinking and writing, spoken and written English proficiency, script writing, and social media marketing can apply by January 21. The stipend is Rs 5,000 / month. Apply at: https://tinyurl.com/vkf3mesh.

Legal internship
Omvin is hiring law/legal interns in Bengaluru. Students with knowledge of legal drafting, legal research, legal writing, and statutory compliance can apply by January 21. The stipend is Rs 5,000-8,000/month. Apply at: https://tinyurl.com/2n3w2v8s.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ, ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ಸಂ: 12/2025–2026 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 29.12.2025
ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ವಿವಿಧ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
ಐಟಂವಾರು ದರದ ಟೆಂಡರುಗಳ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ **KW-1/2/3 & 4** ರ ರೀತಿ ದ್ವಿಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ **https:// kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಾಗಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು.
ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ. (22) ರಿಂದ (45), (50) ರಿಂದ (53) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಮಾತ್ರ]
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪೂರ್ವಭಾವಿ ಸಭೆಯನ್ನು ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ವಿಭಾಗ ಮಂಡ್ಯ, ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 03–01–2026 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11–00** ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳನ್ನು **ದಿನಾಂಕ 29.12.2025** ರಿಂದ ಇ–ಪೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ಮೂಲಕ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿಚಾರಣೆ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 06.01.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.00** ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ:07.01.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.30** ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ, ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ:08.01.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆ** ನಂತರ ಅಥವಾ ನಂತರದ ಕೆಲಸದ ದಿನಗಳು, ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ:09.01.2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00ಗಂಟೆಗೆ** ಅಥವಾ ನಂತರದ ಕೆಲಸದ ದಿನಗಳು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ಬೆಲೆ ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ರಂತೆ. ಕಾಲಮಿತಿ: ಮಳೆಗಾಲ ಸೇರಿ **3/4 ತಿಂಗಳು ಒಟ್ಟು 28 (ಇಪ್ಪತ್ತೆಂಟು).**
ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ. (01) ರಿಂದ (21), (46) ರಿಂದ(49) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಮಾತ್ರ]
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪೂರ್ವಭಾವಿ ಸಭೆಯನ್ನು ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ವಿಭಾಗ ಮಂಡ್ಯ, ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 13.01.2026 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11–00** ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳನ್ನು **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 29.12.2025** ರಿಂದ ಇ–ಪೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ಮೂಲಕ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿಚಾರಣೆ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 16.01.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.00** ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17.01.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.30** ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ, ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19.01.2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00** ಘಂಟೆ ನಂತರ ಅಥವಾ ನಂತರದ ಕೆಲಸದ ದಿನಗಳು, ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ:20.01.2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00**ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಅಥವಾ ನಂತರದ ಕೆಲಸದ ದಿನಗಳು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ಬೆಲೆ ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ರಂತೆ. ಕಾಲಮಿತಿ: ಮಳೆಗಾಲ ಸೇರಿ **6/9/11 ತಿಂಗಳು ಒಟ್ಟು 25 (ಇಪ್ಪತ್ತೈದು),**
ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಪೈಕಿ **ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.940.00** ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು **ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.17.70** ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಬೆಲೆ ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ರಂತೆ, ಕೆಲಸಗಳ ವಿವರ, ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ, ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ., ಮೊತ್ತ ಮುಂತಾದ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸದರಿ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.
ಟಿಪ್ಪಣಿ:
1. ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರು ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣಗಳನ್ನು ನೀಡದೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯ ಮುಂದೂಡುವಿಕೆ /ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ರದ್ದುಗೊಳಿಸುವ/ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನಿರಾಕರಿಸುವ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.
2. ಇನ್ನು ಮುಂದೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳು ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನ ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ, ಬದಲಾಗಿ ವಿದ್ಯುನ್ಮಾನ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ವೇದಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.
ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾ.ಇಂ.,ಲೋ.ಇ.,ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ

Government of Karnataka
Office of the Senior Geologist, District Administration building, Koppal
Telephone No.: 08539-221285 E-mail: sgdmgkoppal@gmail.com
No: DMG/SG/Sand Tender/2025-26/5906 dated: 29.12.2025
Tender notification for the procurement of sand blocks identified in the 4th, 5th and 6th order stream/river characters of Koppal district through e-procurement
Notification for the quotation and allocation of sand blocks through electronic procurement No.: DMG/2025-26/SE0147, dated:29.12.2025, DMG/2025-26/SE0149, dated:29.12.2025 DMG/2025-26/SE0150, dated:29.12.2025, DMG/2025-26/SE0153, dated:29.12.2025 DMG/2025-26/SE0154, dated:29.12.2025, DMG/2025-26/SE0155, dated:29.12.2025 DMG/2025-26/SE0156, dated:29.12.2025, DMG/2025-26/SE0158, dated:29.12.2025
As per Government Notification No. CI-MMN/115/2024, Bengaluru, dated:03.12.2024 in Budget 2024-25, Item 326, a new Sand Policy, 2020 has been approved to make sand available at fixed prices for public and government works. In order to ensure coordination among all government departments and eliminate confusion in implementing this policy and to provide sand to the public easily and at a reasonable price, the sand blocks identified in the 4th, 5th and 6th grade stream and river basins of Koppal district have been identified, the disposal of the sand blocks through tendering through e-procurement will be entrusted to the Department of Mines and Geology.
In this regard, as per the proceedings of the Koppal District Sand Monitoring Committee meetings were held on 22.12.2025 the 8 sand blocks in various taluks will be disposed of under the "where is, as is" concept as per the Karnataka Sub-Mineral Concession Rules subject to all the documents, conditions and provisions laid down in the tender document as per Government Notification No. CI-MMN/115/2024, Bangalore dated 03.12.2024. This notification for the disposal of the said sand blocks through tender under electronic procurement (e-procurement) is invited under the Karnataka Public Procurement Transparency Act-2000. Interested public/bidders can submit their bids on Karnataka Government's e-procurement website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/**
There are individual tender called for all 8 sand blocks, Intrested public/bidders can submit their bids with relevant documents.
The schedule for the bidding process for the disposal of the above sand blocks is as follows.
Date of downloading of tender documents and other details : **29.12.2025.** Date and venue of tender pre-bid meeting : **13.01.2026 Time: 11.00 AM.** Office of the Senior Geologist Department of Mines and Geology, District Administration Building, Hospet Road, Koppal. Last date for receipt of tender documents through e-procurement : **29.01.2026, Time: 5:30 PM.** Date of opening of tender documents through e-procurement : **31.01.2026, Time: 11.00 AM.** For more information Contact Office **Number 08539-221285.**
Sd/-Senior Geologist and Member Secretary, Department of Mines and Geology, Koppal, District Sand Monitoring Committee, Koppal
DIPR/Koppal/576/DeshpandePublicity/2025-26

ARMY INSTITUTE OF FASHION AND DESIGN
(A Unit of Army Welfare Education Society)
Nagareshwara Nagenahalli, PO-Kothanur, Bengaluru-560077
Tel: **6363849144** E-Mail: **aifd@awesindia.edu.in** Web: **www.aifd.edu.in**
NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)
1. AIFD, AWES Campus Bangalore-77 invites Tender from reputed Vendors for **"Procurement of 10 numbers of branded desktop at AIFD, Bangalore-77 ".**
2. The Request for Proposal(RFP) for detailed scope of work is available in our website **www.aifd.edu.in.**
3. The Last date for submission of offers is **20th January, 2026**
Sd/- **Principal, AIFD**

Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited
(Wholly owned by Govt. of Karnataka undertaking)
(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)
TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP Portal)
BESCOM invites tenders through KPP Portal from eligible Bidders against Enquiry No.: **SEE/BRC/EE(O)/AEE(O)/F-1(B)(EV)/Enq-01, Dated: 19.12.2025** for Arranging power supply to an extent of 80KW to EV Charging Station under LT-6(c) & Petrol Bunk Installation purpose in favour of M/s. Indian Oil Corporation Limited, represented by it's Senior Manager Sri Gadasu Uday Kumar, M/s Kumarapark Service Station at Sy No. 206, E-Khatha No. 150200401700124811, Kannamangala Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk in Sai Garden O&M Unit of Avalahalli Sub Division of Hosakote Division. Issue of Bid Documents: **from 31.12.2025, 14:30 Hrs. to 15.01.2026, 14:00Hrs.** Last date for receipt of Bid Documents: **15.01.2026 upto 16:00 Hrs.** Opening of Bid Documents on or after: **17.01.2026, 14:00 Hrs.**
The tender can be obtained through e-Procurement by visiting our website or directly you can access the tendering website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Any clarifications about e-payment contact e-procurement help desk **+91-9240214000, +91-9240214001** or e-mail to : **support@eprochelpdsk.com** for any issue.
Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele), (C, O&M), B'lore Rural Circle, BESCOM, KSSCL, Beeja Bhavan, 5th Floor, Bellary Road, Hebbal, Bangalore -560024.
For Electricity related complaints call : 1912
Download BESCOM Mithra Mobile APP.

Spartons, Sapphire to battle for Metro Shield

BENGALURU, DHNS: Fifties from Deepak Shridhar (59) and Ratan Thosh AS (52) were eclipsed by an all-round effort from Ashok D and a Nithin Naidu four-for as Spartons Sports Club punched their final ticket with a nervy one-wicket over Sangam Cricket Association in the KSCA Group I, IV Division league-cum-knockout tournament for the Metro Shield at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium here.

LOCAL CRICKET

Batting first, SCA could only manage 211 all out in 48 overs with Nithin (4/22), Ashok D (2/30) and Sanjay R (2/58) sharing eight wickets between them.

Chasing 212 for a spot in the final, contributions from Desmond Antony (45), Ayush Shetty (34) and Ashok D (31) helped the Spartons cross the line with 7.1 overs to spare.

In the another semifinal, Angadraj Sangam Hittalamani's (4/21) four-wicket haul helped Sapphire Cricket Club seal their final spot with a three-wicket win over Freelancers Cricket Club at the Alur 3 Ground.

Brief scores: At M Chinnaswamy: Sangam Cricket Association: 211 all out in 48 overs (Deepak Shridhar 59, Ratan Thosh AS 52; Ashok D 2-30, Sanjay R 2-58, Nithin Naidu 4-22) lt to Spartons Sports Club: 212/9 in 42.5 overs (Ayush Shetty 34, Desmond Antony 45, Ashok D 31; Nihal S Patil 2-18, Raghavendra Mohan Naik 2-50, Kushal C 3-44) **At Alur 3:** Freelancers Cricket Club: 170 all out in 44.3 overs (Koushik Hegde 37, Aravind S 28, MK Hemesh 2-32, Angadraj Sangam Hittalamani 4-21, Shameek Kolambkar 2-29) lt to Sapphire Cricket Club: 172/7 in 45.4 overs (Ravikumar M 39, Tanu B 42, Thrivarna Sagar 43 n.o., Santhosh 2-45, Amith R 3-12).

Suvik, Sukurth hand Karnataka early honours

BENGALURU, DHNS: Suvik Gill picked up a brilliant five-for while team-mate Sukurth J returned with a three-wicket haul as Karnataka bagged the early advantage against Goa in their Elite Vijay Merchant Trophy Group fixture at the RDCA Ground in Raipur on Monday.

With the flip of the coin going Goa's way, skipper Vinit Kamat would have regretted the decision to bat first, as they endured an ordinary performance.

Suvik (5/32) broke Goa's batting backbone, picking wickets at regular intervals, as they were bowled out for a mere 160 in 55 overs. Sukurth returned with figures of 3/27.

In reply, Karnataka were 154 for no loss at stumps with openers Rohith Reddy (78 not out) and Niranjan Ashok (72 not out) batting.

Brief scores: Goa: 160 all out in 55 overs (Adeep Miskin 68, Mohammad Uzair 33; Suvik Gill 5-32, Sukurth J 3-27) vs Karnataka: 154/0 in 33 overs (Niranjan Ashok 72 n.o., R Rohith Reddy 78 n.o.)

CRICKET FIFTH T20I

India target series whitewash

Embattled Sri Lanka will look for a consolation victory in final outing

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PTI

While India have been brilliant with both bat and ball, fielding remains an area of concern. PTI

LIVE 7:00 PM, STAR SPORTS

India will look to continue their aggressive intent and complete a 5-0 series whitewash against a vanquished Sri Lanka in the fifth and final women's T20 International here on Tuesday.

The five-match series has formed a significant part of India's preparation for the T20 World Cup in England in June-July next year. Following Tuesday's game, India will play three T20 Internationals each in Australia and England before the showpiece event.

After a group-stage exit in the 2024 T20 World Cup, India recalibrated their approach, opting for a more aggressive style of play, a shift that has yielded two series wins this year.

"It was a great series for all of us. That's what we discussed after the World Cup — that we have to raise our standards and be more aggressive in T20s," captain Harmanpreet Kaur had said after sealing the series against the Islanders.

India's bowlers have been the primary architects of the dominant run, with batters having very little to do in the opening three matches. But the big-hitting Shafali Verma has impressed.

However, fielding remains an area of concern. After a sloppy showing in the series opener, India faltered again in the previous match, missing two catches and a stumping opportunity. There have been several positives as well. Pacer Renuka Singh Thakur has made a successful return to the format after a year-long absence, while the ever-reliable Deepti Sharma continues to deliver consistently.

With the bat, Shafali has been a constant menace for Sri Lanka, scoring three half-centuries in four matches at a blistering strike rate of 185.82.

Another major boost for the hosts was the return to form of vice-captain Smriti Mandhana after a lean patch. The elegant left-hander will hope her big outing -- 80 off 48 balls -- in the fourth T20I helps her carry the momentum forward.

Shafali and Mandhana produced a masterclass in aggressive batting in the fourth T20I, putting on 162 runs off just 92 balls-- India's highest opening partnership in women's T20 Internationals.

India's decision to promote Richa Ghosh to No. 3 also paid rich dividends, with the wicket-keeper batter smashing an unbeaten 40 off just 16 deliveries.

After the first three matches were low-scoring affairs, the fourth T20I turned into a run-fest, with both India and Sri Lanka registering their highest-ever totals in the format.

Although India's 221 for 2 proved too much for Sri Lanka, who managed 191 for 6, the Islanders would take confidence from their vastly improved batting display as they seek a consolation win.

Rajesh nets treble in goalfest

BENGALURU, DHNS: P Rajesh S scored a treble as it rained goals in RWF FC's 7-3 victory over DYES FC in the latest round of games of the BDFA A Division League Championship held at the Bangalore Football Stadium here on Monday.

Rajesh netted all three of his goals within the half-hour mark (6th, 8th and 28th minutes) while DYES responded by pulling one back in the 17th minute through Santosh Tamata who found the net again at the hour to make the score 5-3.

Following a lull, RWF put the game beyond their rival's reach as Robinson M (48th, 90+1st) scored his brace in the injury time while an own goal by Himadeep Gowda (90+7th) made DYES's defensive frailties too apparent.

LOCAL FOOTBALL

Results: RWF FC: 7 (P Rajesh S 6th, 8th, 28th, Prakash Chandar 30th, Robinson M 48th, 90+1st, Himadeep Gowda 90+7th OG) bt DYES FC: 3 (Santosh Tamata-17th, 58th, Chandan SA 54th); Technico OF: 2 (Geo Sab Kakkanattu 55th, 90+7th) bt Income Tax FC: 1 (Barry Anand Francis 34th); BTM FC: 2 (Niranjan Babu 15th, Domnic Raj A 45th OG) bt Bangalore Eagles FC: 1 (Domnic Raj A 82nd P).

Composed Dhanda fires trap gold

NEW DELHI, PTI: Asian Championships gold medallist Neeru Dhanda braved chilly weather to deliver a composed performance on way to clinching the women's trap gold medal in the National Shooting Championship at the Karni Singh Range here on Monday.

The 25-year-old shooter, who took the top-podium spot in the continental showpiece in Kazakhstan recently, finished on top with 41 hits in the final. She held off a strong challenge from Delhi's Kirti Gupta, who settled for silver with 40. Neeru's state teammate from Madhya Pradesh, Pragati Dubey claimed the bronze with 32 hits.

Earlier in qualification, Pragati topped the field with 117, followed by Neeru on 114 and Rajeshwari Kumari on 113.

In junior men's trap, Aryavansh Tyagi shot 42 to win the gold.

Karnataka aquatics team members pose with their spoils at the South Zone Aquatic Championships in Hyderabad.

K'taka are SZ aquatics champs

BENGALURU, DHNS

Karnataka aquatics team emerged overall champions in the South Zone Aquatic Championships in Hyderabad on Monday as it finished top of the table with 1022 points which was more than the combined total of the second and third-placed teams.

Karnataka swimmers, who dominated the first two days as well, continued to grab medals galore in individual events while reigning supreme in all of the relay events, including the boys' and girls' U-17 4x100m freestyle relay.

Karnataka's U-14 swimmers Shreyas Sunil and S Krish emerged the best with 35 points each in the boys' category while Tanvi Gaurav, also a U-14 swimmer, emerged the best among state girls with 32 points.

Results (Winners and Karnataka medallists only): Day 3: Swimming: Boys: U-17:400m freestyle: Swaroop Dhanuche (Kar), 4:22.14 seconds, 1; Raghav Swachandam (Kar), 4:22.23, 2. **200m backstroke:** Vedanta V Madhira (Kar), 2:08.41, 1; Yash Kartik (Kar), 2:16.03, 2. **100m breaststroke:** Ganesh Chakradhar Jakka (AP), 1:08.28, 1; Tanuj Singh (Kar), 1:09.40, 2. **4x100m freestyle relay:** Karnataka (Kar), 3:43.19, 1. **U-14: 1500m freestyle:** Shreyas Sunil (Kar), 17:51.93 seconds, 1; Rohan GD (Kar), 18:35.18, 2. **200m backstroke:** S Krish (Kar), 2:23.43, 1. **100m breaststroke:** Abhijith PP (Ker), 1:14.39, 1; Siddhanth B Singh (Kar), 1:14.98, 2. **200m butterfly:** Aarav J (Kar), 2:19.47, 1; Sai Ranjan Madhukar (Kar), 2:22.47, 2. **4x100m freestyle relay:** Karnataka (Kar), 4:00.34, 1. **U-12: 400m freestyle:** Lohitashwa Nagesh (Kar), 4:50.50, 1. **Girls: U-17: 400m freestyle:** Adithi Vinayak Relekar (Kar), 4:47.38, 1; Mihika Dutta (Kar), 4:50.91, 3. **200m backstroke:** Tanmayi Dharmesh (Kar), 2:37.78, 1; Aarna Hegde (Kar), 2:38.52, 2. **100m breaststroke:** Pavani Sarayu N (AP), 1:20.85, 1; Samanvi E S (Kar), 1:22.98, 2; Tisya Sonar (Kar), 1:23.48, 3. **4x100m freestyle relay:** Karnataka, 4:16.69, 1. **U-14: 1500m freestyle:** Idika Bhat (Kar), 19:44.11, 1; Sparsha S Harisha (Kar), 20:09.77, 3. **200m backstroke:** Shivani Karra (Tel), 2:32.71, 1; Avhni Belliappa (Kar), 2:36.33, 3. **100m breaststroke:** Alakananda Raju (Ker), 1:20.56, 1; Siri Preetham (Kar), 1:22.19, 2. **200m butterfly:** Aadya Bharadwaj (Kar), 2:37.70, 1; Manya R Wadhwa (Kar), 2:38.81, 2. **4x100m freestyle relay:** Karnataka (Kar), 4:18.22, 1. **U-12: 400m freestyle:** Nayana A Madhyastha (Kar), 5:00.67, 1; Vidula R (Kar), 5:00.77, 2. **Waterpolo: Final: Boys:** Kerala: 12 bt Karnataka: 6. **Girls:** Kerala: 11 bt Karnataka: 8 **Overall champions:** Karnataka, 122 pts, 1; Telangana, 425, 2; Tamil Nadu: 414.

Polin, Hrithik power Delhi Public School, East into semifinals

BENGALURU, DHNS

Hrithik Polin's fiery ton and Krishna's all-round show propelled Delhi Public School, East to a commanding 197-run win over Delhi Public School, Electronic City in a quarterfinal match of the KSCA under-14 schools' tournament for the BT Ramaiah (I Div) Shield here.

LOCAL CRICKET

Polin struck 111-ball 145 (14x4) while Krishna (96 off 74 balls, 12x4) narrowly missed out on a hundred as DPS, East posted a massive 355/4 in 50 overs.

DPS, Electronic City found the target too steep and finished at 158/7 in 50 overs with Krishna adding 2/35 to his excellent work the bat. Saurjyesh Das claimed 3/22.

Other teams to progress to the semifinal were Max Muller High School, DPS, North and Poorna Vikasa Vidyalaya.

Brief scores (BTR I Div Quarterfinals): At Kreeda Kshetra (A): Delhi Public School, East: 355/4 in 50 overs (Ashwwath Nagarajan 43, K Hrithik Polin 145 n.o., Krishna 96; Vinjamuri Rushyanth 2-51) bt Delhi Public School, Electronic City: 158/7 in 50 overs (Vikrant Ronav Budala 90; Krishna 2-35, Saurjyesh Das 3-22). **At BGS**: St Joseph's Boys' High School: 214/9 in 50 overs (Prabhav Pydah 36, M Kanishk Reddy 27, Naksh CM 63, SM Bhavith 63; M Neeraj 3-42, Jeevan 2-40, Rajveer Mehta 2-50) lt to Max Muller High School: 218/9 in 45.4 overs (Athreya Bhat 50, Rajveer Mehta 58; Chiranjeevi BG 2-32, Piyush Raj L 2-32, Prabhav Pydah 3-45). **At RRMC**: Holy Saint English School: 167 all out in 49.3 overs (Sachin A 41, Mohammad Uzer 33, Kishan P 51; Sami Kadakol 3-27, Parinith K 3-46) lt to Delhi Public School, North: 168/2 in 31.2 overs (Tanush Mishra 95, Saachin Suresh Araganji 47 n.o.). **At Green Sports Village**: Poorna Vikasa Vidyalaya: 243/5 in 50 overs (Mahin Srikanth 67, Sachith Shetty 66, P Lithik Reddy 55 n.o.; Hannan Zaki Ahmad 2-36, Jeevan G 2-53) bt Delhi Public School, South: 203 all out in 50 overs (Hannan Ahmad 40, Sachit S Galatagi 37, Akarsh M Appinakatte 77; Gagan Y 2/55, Tejas Bhat 4-25).

BTR Shield II Division brief scores: Ebenezer International School: 201/9 in 50 overs (Advay Choudhary 78, Guru Tejas 28; Archit Rawat 2-37, Sai Teja Atti 3-21) lt to Vydehi School of Excellence: 202/4 in 40.1 overs (Archit Rawat 42, Shreyan Ghosh 28 n.o., Havish Prathap 70 n.o.; Sai Vedant 3-34). Presidency School: 268 all out in 48.3 overs (Chirag A 76; 2-49, Sudhanva Arun 2-42) bt Jyothi Kendriya Vidyalaya: 194 all out in 46.4 overs (Prashanth Gowda GS 83; Hanshal Banawar 3-29, Sumedh Srinivas Badagandi 3-21, Kahan S 2-38). Sri Aurobindo Memorial School, CBSE: 152 all out in 36.3 overs (Neev Jain 50; Neil J Anthony 5-27, Advaith V Reddy 3-29, Shreyas P 2-14) lt to Bethany High School: 153/9 in 43.4 overs (Jadyn Shatananda 45, Aarush Mundra 26 n.o.; Ranjiv Raghavendra 4-45, Samrudh Thimaiah M 2-17). Soundarya Central School: 199 all out in 40.4 overs (Bhargava Reddy MV 33, Sri Charan Kandula 41; Nachiketh K 3-26, Karthik Mahantesh S 2-45, Pratham R 2-29) bt KLE Society's School: 117 all out in 31.2 overs (Karthik Mahantesh S 46, Vishwadrutha V 25; Puneeth H R 5-37, Saarthak N 5-6). Kensri School and College: 121 all out in 44.5 overs (Bhofinn Sanjeevareddy 45; Aarav Singh 3-11, Aryan Rajesh Nayak 3-27, BG Kavin Mukish 2-10, Dondeti Rohit Reddy 2-27) lt to St Francis School, ICSE: 122/5 in 22.4 overs (Varish Pankaj 37; Vikas Seervi 3-32). Holy Cross School: 285/4 in 50 overs (Ishaan K 39, Ishaanth Y 126, Navhil Sai SK 62 n.o.; Mihir Nayak 2-50, Samarth Harithas 2-39) bt Sri Kumaran Children's Academy: 199/5 in 50 overs (Parth Sharma 58 n.o., Yuvraaj N Nama 43 n.o.; Prakul 2-31). Vibgyor High, Marathahalli: 185 all out in 40.1 overs (Yug Sinha 59, Mohammed Rehaan 25; Samarth Gowda B 2-30, Avyukth A Anand 2-31, Shreyas Gowda A 2-42) bt Sri RV School, Kolar: 73 all out in 29.4 overs (Jithesh Neelareddy 4-25, Krishang Gupta 2-15, Siddharth Santhosh Kini 2-2).

BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION

Office of the Executive Engineer, Peenya Industrial Area Division,
2nd & 4th cross Road, 2nd Main Road, 3rd Block, HMT Layout,
Near BWSSB Water Tank, Nagasandra Post, Bengaluru-73

No: BWCC/EE/PIA/Tend/02/2025-26 **Date: 29-12-2025**

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (IFT)

(SINGLE & TWO TENDER DOCUMENT SYSTEM)
(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only) **KW 2 & 3**

The Executive Engineer, Peenya Industrial Area Division, BWCC, Bengaluru invites tenders on behalf of the commissioner, BWCC, Bengaluru from eligible Tenderers for the Construction of works detailed in the table below.

SL. NO.	Name of the works/Category
1.	Desilting & Maintenance of Drains by silt & Tractor for the year 2025-26 in Ward No-20 Nelagedaranahalli (ST). **Amount put to Tender: ₹. 28.57 Lakhs, EMD Amount: ₹. 28,600.00**
2	Desilting & Maintenance of Drains by silt & Tractor for the year 2025-26 in Ward No-21 Chokkasandra (Others). **Amount put to Tender: ₹. 28.57 Lakhs, EMD Amount: ₹. 57,500.00**
3	Desilting & Maintenance of Drains by silt & Tractor for the year 2025-26 in Ward No-22 Peenya Industrial Area (SC). **Amount put to Tender: ₹. 27.79 Lakhs, EMD Amount: ₹. 27,800.00**
4	Desilting & Maintenance of Drains by silt & Tractor for the year 2025-26 in Ward No-23 Rajagopalanagara (CAT-I). **Amount put to Tender: ₹. 28.57 Lakhs, EMD Amount: ₹. 28,600.00**
5	Desilting & Maintenance of Drains by silt & Tractor for the year 2025-26 in Ward No-24 Hegganahalli (Others). **Amount put to Tender: ₹. 28.57 Lakhs, EMD Amount: ₹. 57,500.00**
6	Desilting & Maintenance of Drains by silt & Tractor for the year 2025-26 in Ward No-25 Sunkadakatte (Others). **Amount put to Tender: ₹. 28.57 Lakhs, EMD Amount: ₹. 57,500.00**
7	Improvements to roads, drains and Culverts in Nelagedaranahalli Village and surrounding area in Ward No-20 Nelagedaranahalli (Others) Call-2. **Amount put to Tender: ₹. 84.69 Lakhs, EMD Amount: ₹. 1,70,000.00**
8	Improvements to roads, drains and Culverts in Parvathi Nagara and surrounding area in Ward No-21 Chokkasandra (SC) Call-2. **Amount put to Tender: ₹. 42.37 Lakhs, EMD Amount: ₹. 42,400.00**
9	Improvements to Roads, drains in Gruhalakshmi Layout and surrounding area in Ward No-22 Nelagedaranahalli (Others) Call-2. **Amount put to Tender: ₹. 84.66 Lakhs, EMD Amount: ₹. 1,70,000.00**
10	Improvements to roads and drains in Rajagopalanagara, Kempegowda Layout, Ramaiah Badavane and surrounding area in Ward no-23 Rajagopalanagar (Others) Call-2. **Amount put to Tender: ₹. 72.03 Lakhs, EMD Amount: ₹. 1,44,500.00**
11	Improvements to roads and drains at Hoysala Nagara, Pipeline Road and Sunkadakatte surroundings in Ward No-25 Hegganahalli Sub Division (Others) Call-2. **Amount put to Tender: ₹. 67.76 Lakhs, EMD Amount: ₹. 1,36,000.00**
12	Improvement to Roads and Drains at Sanjeevininagara 2nd Stage, 3rd Stage and Lakhmananagara in Ward No-25 Hegganahalli Sub Division (CAT-III(A)) Call-2. **Amount put to Tender: ₹. 50.84 Lakhs, EMD Amount: ₹. 50,900.00**
13	Improvement to Roads and Drains at Sanjeevininagara 1st Stage and Muneshwar Layout surroundings in Ward No-25 Hegganahalli Sub Division (Others) Call-2. **Amount put to Tender: ₹. 59.26 Lakhs, EMD Amount: ₹. 1,19,000.00**
14	Improvements to roads and drains in GKW Layout. Shambhavinagar and surrounding area in Ward No-23 Rajagopalanagara (CAT-III(A)) Call-2. **Amount put to Tender: ₹. 76.27 Lakhs, EMD Amount: ₹. 76,300.00**
15	Improvements to roads and drains in Gruhalakshmi layout and surrounding area in Ward No-20 Nelagedarahalli (CAT-III(A)) Call-2. **Amount put to Tender: ₹. 42.38 Lakhs, EMD Amount: ₹. 42,400.00**
16	Improvements to Roads and Desilting of drains at Cross Roads Neelakanteshwara Temple surroundings Sanjeevininagara 1st Stage Ward No-25 Hegganahalli Sub Division (Others) Call-2. **Amount put to Tender: ₹. 84.61 Lakhs, EMD Amount: ₹. 1,70,000.00**
17	Improvements to roads, drains and culverts in Chokkasandra Village and surrounding area in Ward No-21 Chokkasandra (Others) Call-2 **Amount put to Tender: ₹. 84.75 Lakhs, EMD Amount: ₹. 1,70,000.00**
18	Improvements to roads, drains and culverts in Chokkasandra in Ward No-21 Peenya Industrial Area Sub Division (SC) Call-2 **Amount put to Tender: ₹. 84.75 Lakhs, EMD Amount: ₹. 84,800.00**

Calender of Events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the kppp portal from **17-01-2026**. (2) Tenders must be submitted online through KPP portal on or before **29-01-2026** upto **4:00** pm. (3) Pre-Bid for 2 cover tender meeting will be held on **21-01-2026** at **11:30** am in the Office of the Chief Engineer, BWCC,18th Cross, Ideal Homes, R.R. Nagar Bengaluru - 98. (4) Opening of Technical Bids on **30-01-2026** at **4:30** pm. (If Possible) (5) Opening of Financial Bids on **31-01-2026** at **4:30** pm. (If Possible)

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Peenya Industrial Area Division,
Bengaluru West City Corporation, Zone-1

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
U R RAO SATELLITE CENTRE
CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP
HAL Airport Road, Bangalore - 560 017
(Phone : 080 25084184, 4156)
BRIEF E-TENDER NOTICE

Description	Details
Name of work	Construction of Temporary Classroom at KV NAL School, Bengaluru.
E-Tender Notice No.	URSC/C&MG/C/M/27/2025-26, Dt. 26/12/2025
Estimated cost put to Tender	₹ 15.42 Lakhs
Period of completion	Two Months
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	₹ 30,840/- (Validity for 180 days)

Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting E-Tender (NIET) for eligibility criteria and other details along with Hindi version in website: **www.isro.gov.in** and download the tender documents from **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**

Sd/-
Group Director, C&MG, URSC

ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜನೀಯರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಧಾರವಾಡ ವಿಭಾಗ,
ಧಾರವಾಡ. ದೂ.: 0836-2747749, ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: eepwddha@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : ಕಾ.ನಿ.ಇಂ.ಧಾ./ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ/ಪಿ.ಬಿ. 1, 2, 3, 5/2025-26/4584
ದಿನಾಂಕ : 26-12-2025

ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

(ಐ.ಎಫ್.ಟಿ.-ಕೆಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ. 1, 2, 3, 4) (ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)

ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಧಾರವಾಡ ರವರು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕೆ.ಟಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. 2000 ರನ್ವಯ ಮತ್ತು ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ – 1, 2, 3, 4ರ ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. (kppp.karnataka.gov.in) ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ದ್ವಿ-ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕನಿಷ್ಟ ರೂ. 4.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಿಂದ ಗರಿಷ್ಟ ರೂ. 830.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳವರೆಗೆ, 2025-26 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳ ಮೂಲ ಸೌಕರ್ಯ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶಿರ್ಷಿಕೆ : 4059-80-051-0-60-132 ಮೂಲ ಸೌಕರ್ಯ ಬಂಡವಾಳ ವೆಚ್ಚ ಅಡಿ, 2216-07-053-0-01-200 ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ವಸತಿ ಹಾಗೂ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಂಗ ವಸತಿ ಗೃಹಗಳ ದುರಸ್ತಿ / ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಹಾಗೂ 2059-80-053-4-00-200 ವಿವಿಧ ಇಲಾಖಾ ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳ ದುರಸ್ತಿ / ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕಾದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಅಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

1) Calander of Events : General - 1) PWD/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT 29612, 2) PWD/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT29596, 3) PWD/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT30956, 4) PWD/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT30646.

1) ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆ – ಸಂದೇಹ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 20-01-2026 ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 12.30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ವರೆಗೆ, 2) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಪತ್ರಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 21-01-2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ, 3) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 22-01-2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ, 4) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 23-01-2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ.

2) Calander of Events : General - 5) PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT 31507, 6) PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT31517, 7) PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT31518, 8) PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT 31510, 9) PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT31535, 10) PWD/2025-26/BR/WORK_INDENT31536, 11) PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT 31538, 12) PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT31539, 13) PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT31547, 14) PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT 31489, 15) PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT31542, 16) PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT31537, 17) PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT 31550, 18) PWD/2025-26/BG/WORK_INDENT31540, 19) PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT31551, 20) PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT 31544, 21) PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT30736, 22) PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT23662, 23) PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT 31512, 24) PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT31513, 25) PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT31516, 26) PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT 31521, 27) PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT31522, 28) PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT31523, 29) PWD/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT 31561, 30) PWD/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT31562, 31) PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT31525, 32) PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT 31526, 33) PWD/2025-26/BG/WORK_INDENT31527, 34) PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT31545, 35) PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT 31546, 36) PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT31553, 37) PWD/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT31549.

Calander of Events : SC - 38) PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT30740, 39) PWD/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT31560.

Calander of Events : ST - 40) PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT30742.

Calander of Events : CAT-II(A) - 41) PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT 31541, 42) PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT31515, 43) PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT31514.

1) ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆ – ಸಂದೇಹ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 04-02-2026 ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 12.30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ವರೆಗೆ, 2) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಪತ್ರಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 05-02-2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 400 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ, 3) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 06-02-2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ, 4) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 07-02-2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ.

3) Calander of Events : General - 44) PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT31530, 45) PWD/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT31548, 46) PWD/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT31543.

1) ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆ – ಸಂದೇಹ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 13-02-2026 ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 12.30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ವರೆಗೆ, 2) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಪತ್ರಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 16-02-2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ, 3) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 17-02-2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ, 4) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 18-02-2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ.

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂದಿಸಿದ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಅಂತರ್‌ಜಾಲ ವಿಳಾಸ : http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in ದಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಲೋಕೊಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಧಾರವಾಡ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಕಚೇರಿಯ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು,
ಲೋ.ಇ., ಧಾರವಾಡ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಧಾರವಾಡ.

ಡಿಜಪಿಆರ್/ಧಾರವಾಡ/1041/ಮಣಿಪಾಲ್/2025-26

IN BRIEF

Bangarappa is KBA president

▸ Kumar Bangarappa S was elected as the president of the Karnataka Badminton Association for the period of 2025 to 2029 in the Quadrennial election, reports DHNS.

Office bearers: President: Kumar Bangarappa S; Hon Secretary: V Muralidhar; Hon Treasurer: GM Nischitha; Joint Secretary: Anup Sridhar; Sr Vice President: H Anil Kumar; Vice Presidents: Basavaraja SN, Kiran Bellam, TS Vishwas, CS Mahesh.

Executive council members: NC Sudhir, Nishanth Hiremath S, Vijay N, Guruprasad, Harish Kumar BR, Arvind Bhat, R Arun, Santhosh Kumar Shetty, Anand B Havannavar, Rajesh P.

India Open at IG Indoor Stadium

▸ The BWF India Open Super 750 badminton tournament will be held at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium instead of the KD Jadhav Indoor Hall from January 13 to 18, reports PTI from New Delhi.

With India set to host the prestigious World Championships in August next year, the event will act as a test venue.

Sonam sets T20 world record

▸ Bhutan spinner Sonam Yeshey has scripted history by becoming the first bowler to take eight wickets in a men's T20 International match, reports PTI from New Delhi.

The left-arm spinner achieved the unprecedented feat during the third T20I against Myanmar in Gelephu Mindfulness City, Bhutan, on December 26.

The 22-year-old returned figures of 8 for 7, bowling Myanmar out for 45.

MI hire Beams as spin coach

▸ Defending champions Mumbai Indians have appointed former Australian leg-spinner Kristen Beams as spin-bowling coach ahead of the 2026 WPL season, reports PTI from Mumbai. Beams was instrumental in Aussies' World Cup campaigns, finishing as the third-highest wicket-taker in 2017.

Masood breaks Inzamam record

KARACHI, PTI: Test captain Shan Masood has scored the fastest double century by a Pakistani in first-class cricket in 177 balls, breaking Inzamam Ul Haq's three-decade old record.

Masood set the mark while playing for Sui Northern Gas against Sahar Associates on the first day of the President's Cup. Inzamam earlier had scored in from 188 balls in a tour match in 1992.

Ashwa Vedha for main event

DELHI SELECTIONS

Ashwa Vedha, from the stables of S Nawab and to be ridden by Narendra Kumar, is fancied to win the Christmas Tree Plate, the feature event of the races on Tuesday.

The first race starts at 2:00 pm.

1. Cold Wave Plate - 1100M: Nothing To Worry 1, Equal Luxury 2, Master Multitude 3.
2. New Year Plate - 1200M: Jet Space 1, Humaira 2, Ashwa Sabira 3.
3. Christmas Tree Plate - 1600M: Ashwa Vedha 1, Lodge Keeper 2, Amazing A One 3.
4. Santa Clause Plate - 1400M: Sidney Sussex 1, Ashwa Harbir 2, Nashvegas 3.
5. Christmas Cup (Div I) - 1100M: Golden Sun 1, Robust 2, Master Cowboy 3.
6. Chrismas Cup (Div II) - 1100M: Real Stuff 1, Alexander 2, Time To Win 3.
Day's best: Sidney Sussex. **Jackpot:** 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6. **Treble:** 4, 5 & 6.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

5th Women T20I: India vs Sri Lanka (7 pm). **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network**, **JioHotstar**.

HOCKEY

HIL: Ranchi Royals vs Bengal Tigers (**women, 7 pm**). **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network**.

CRICKET VIJAY HAZARE TROPHY

Dominant Karnataka swat aside Tamil Nadu

Agarwal & Co move up to 2nd spot after third win in a row

KL Shrijith K L (left) struck 77 while Shreyas Gopal came up with an all-round show (1/47 & 55) as Karnataka made short work of Tamil Nadu target in Ahmedabad on Monday. DH FILE PHOTOS

BENGALURU, DHNS

Karnataka maintained their momentum, with another convincing win after a third successful chase in as many matches in the Vijay Hazare Elite Group A match in Ahmedabad on Monday.

Devdutt Padikkal, who had smashed two back to back tons in the previous two matches, was dismissed early for a whirlwind 12-ball 22 while last-match centurion Karun Nair could manage only 17 in Karnataka's chase of Tamil Nadu's total of 288 all out in 49.5 overs at the GCA Ground.

Opting to field first, Karnataka bowling once again was powered by left-arm pacer Abhilash Shetty who claimed 4 for 57. Right-arm medium pacer Vidhyadar Patil (2/62) and left-arm spinner Shreesha Achar (2/47) did well in restricting TN to a sub-300 total.

Playing his first game, India pacer Prasidh Krishna conceded 60 in the his 10 wicketless overs.

Karnataka, however, found other heroes as they replied with 293/6 in 47.1 overs to jump to second place. While they have as many wins as the top-placed Madhya Pradesh, the latter tops Group A by virtue of superior net run-rate.

Skipper Mayank Agarwal, who has had an up and down season so far in terms of personal form, produced a timely 58 (77b). It was a sedate knock, but helped stabilise the innings. After Karnataka were reduced to 3/94.

Then came a match-winning association of 116 runs (99 balls) for the fifth wicket between KL Shrijith (77, 78b, 6x4, 2x6) and Shreyas Gopal (55, 47b, 6x4). While Shrijith paced innings well, keeping the asking rate at a manageable level, Shreyas' promotion was a masterstroke.

Having bowled 10 tidy overs (47/1), the seasoned right-hander, who has been used a floater in the middle order this season, produced a nerveless half-century that shifted the balance in Karnataka's side.

Tamil Nadu got a glimmer of hope when both set batters were dismissed off successive balls, but Abhinav Manohar (20 off 9) and Vidyadhar Patil (17 off 15) put together 41 in 24 balls to keep Karnataka slate clean.

Brief scores (Group A): Tamil Nadu: 288 all out in 49.5 overs (Narayan Jagadeesan 65, Baba Indrajith 28, Mohamed Ali 31, Sai Kishore 38; Abhilash Shetty 4-57, Vidyadhar Patil 2-62; Shreesha Achar 2-47) lt to Karnataka: 293/6 in 47.1 overs (Mayank Agarwal 58, Krishnan Shrijith 77, Shreyas Gopal 55).

Tripura: 286 all out in 49.5 overs (Tejasvi Jaiswal 61, Udiyan Bose 40, Sridam Paul 50, Rajat Dey 43, Manisankar Murasingh 25; Khaleel Ahmed 2-51, Aniket Choudhary 3-64, Ashok Sharma 2-53) bt Rajasthan: 220 all out in 44.2 overs (Sumit Godara 37, Karan Lamba 61, Deepak Hooda 30, Mahipal Lomror 28; Manisankar Murasingh 3-30; Vijay Shankar 4-30).

Jharkhand: 368/7 in 50 overs (Utkarsh Singh 74, Kumar Kushagra 105, Anukul Roy 98 n.o., Md Kounain Quraishi 43; Parth Vaghani 3-55) bt Puducherry: 235 all out in 41.4 overs (Neyan Shyam Kangayan 47, Jashwanth Shreeram 60, Mohit Kale 34, Aman Khan 28, Jayant Yadav 25; Rajandeep Singh 3-47, Sushant Mishra 2-23).

Madhya Pradesh: 214 all out in 46.1 overs (Himanshu Mantri 93, Tripuresh Singh 37; Ankit Sharma 4-38, Baba Aparajith 3-36) bt Kerala: 167 all out in 40.1 overs (Salman Nizar 30; Saransh Jain 2-17, Shubham Sharma 3-16).

Kohli to play for Delhi vs Railways on January 6

Star India batter Virat Kohli (**in pic**) will play Delhi's Vijay Hazare Trophy game against the Railways on January 6 at the BCCI Centre of Excellence (COE) in Bengaluru, DDCA President Rohan Jaitley confirmed, reports PTI from New Delhi.

The BCCI diktat for all centrally-contracted players was to take part in at least two Vijay Hazare games but Kohli wants to play a third match as he gears up for the home series against New Zealand this month.

"As of now, he is playing. Virat have given his availability for three games," Delhi cricket board (DDCA) President Rohan Jaitley said.

A BCCI source said that while the Indian ODI squad for the New Zealand series is assembling in Vadodara by January 8, there is a possibility that Kohli might arrive a day earlier and train.

Priyansh Arya

Priyansh, Tejasvi carry Delhi to win

BENGALURU, DHNS: Delhi batters Priyansh Arya and Tejasvi Dahiya scored crucial half-centuries to help a Virat Kohli-less side to a three-wicket victory over Saurashtra in a Group D match of the Vijay Hazare Trophy here on Monday.

While Rishabh Pant had a quiet day with the bat, Arya (78 runs off 45 balls) and Tejasvi (53 off 51) provided the initiative in a big chase of 321 as the national capital side reached the target with seven balls to spare at the Alur Cricket Grounds.

Saurashtra made a challenging 320 for seven in 50 overs, courtesy a 115 (104b) by opener Vishvarajsinh Jadeja and an unbeaten 65-ball 95 by Ruchit Ahir.

Kohli had played a stellar role in Delhi's win in the first two matches, scoring a hundred and fifty. The star batter is set to rejoin the team on January 6 for the match against Railways at the BCCI Centre of Excellence.

Pant could not make a heavy contribution, getting out for a 26-ball 22. The left-hander gave a catch to Jay Gohil off Chirag Jani.

But his teammates more than made-up for Pant's lapse and their talisman Kohli's absence. Arya was involved in a 66-run alliance for the second wicket with Ayush Doseja before falling to Chetan Sakarya.

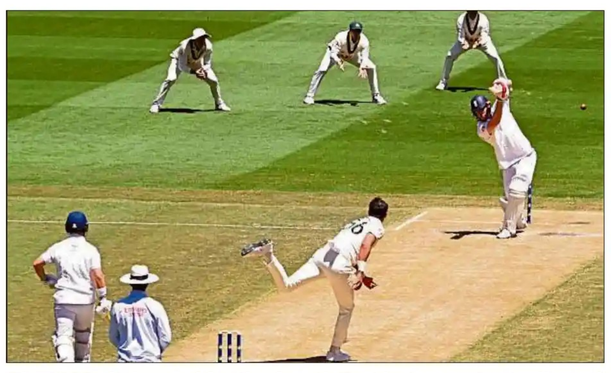
Delhi was 115 for two then in 13.2 overs and despite losing wickets at regular intervals they did not allow the asking rate to spiral out of control.

Tejasvi was involved in two crucial stands after Delhi found themselves at 160 for four -- 48 for the fifth wicket with Pant and 40 for the next wicket with Harsh Tyagi.

Brief scores: Saurashtra: 320/7 in 50 overs (Harvik Desai 28, Vishvarajsinh Jadeja 115, Sammar Gajjar 41, Ruchit Ahit 95 n.o.; Navdeep Saini 3-41, Prince Yadav 2-64) lt to Delhi: 321/7 in 48.5 overs (Priyansh Arya 78, Nitish Rana 37, Tejasvi Dahiya 53, Harsh Tyagi 49, Navdeep Saini 34 n.o.; Chirag Jani 2-51, Hiten Kanbi 2-52).

ICC terms Boxing Day pitch at MCG 'unsatisfactory'

Iconic venue gets first negative rating after a streak of 'very good' reports



The MCG pitch, used for the fourth Test between Australia and England, was deemed too much in favour of bowlers. AFP

MELBOURNE, AFP

The Melbourne Cricket Ground's seam-friendly pitch for the fourth Ashes Test was rated "unsatisfactory" on Monday by the International Cricket Council after it ended inside two days.

Under the world governing body's four-tier rating system "unsatisfactory" is the second lowest, characterising a pitch "favouring the bowlers too much".

It broke the venue's streak of "very good" ratings for the past three Boxing Day Tests and earned it one demerit point.

"The MCG pitch was too much in favour of the bowlers," said match referee Jeff Crowe.

"With 20 wickets falling on the first day, 16 on the second day and no batter even reaching a half-century, the pitch was 'unsatisfactory' as per the guidelines and the venue gets one demerit point." England beat Australia by four wickets in the final session of day two, with no batter scoring more than 46 across the four innings.

The first Test in Perth also ended in two days, but that pitch was rated "very good" by the ICC.

MCG curator Matt Page and his team left 10 millimetres (0.4 inches) of grass on the wicket, providing the seamers with movement and bounce and making batting treacherous.

The carnage left Cricket Australia facing Aus$10 million in revenue shortfall, with tickets for day three and four needing to be refunded.

"We were disappointed for the fans holding tickets for days three and four and also the millions of fans excited to watch the action in Australia and around the world, that the pitch did not provide the MCG's customary balance between bat and ball," said Cricket Australia's chief of cricket James Allsopp.

"We appreciate the outstanding work the MCG staff have done over recent years producing excellent Test match pitches," he added.

job over the years and the batsmen should also shoulder some of the blame for not scoring enough runs.

Bengal Tigers beat Soorma by solitary goal

RANCHI, PTI: Shrachi Bengal Tigers registered a 1-0 victory over JSW Soorma Hockey Club in their first match of the Women's Hero Hockey India League (HIL) here on Monday.

Augustina Gorzelany's (11th minute) powerful drag flick gave the Shrachi Bengal Tigers the lead in the first quarter and despite JSW Soorma Hockey Club's dominant attacking display, they were unable to breach the Tigers' stellar defence for the rest of the game at the Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh Munda Astro Turf Stadium.

Both the teams engaged in an intense midfield battle to begin the game but gradually Soorma Hockey Club gained confidence and registered a string of forays into the Tigers' shooting circle, albeit without attempting a shot.

The Tigers attempted to advance down the wings and earned a penalty corner with five minutes left in the quarter and Gorzelany stepped up to flick the ball into the bottom right corner.

Looking to equalise, Soorma earned a penalty corner at the end of the quarter but Shihori Oikawa's shot was deflected wide.

Erigaisi stuns Carlsen, Nodirbek

DOHA, PTI

Top Indian GM Arjun Erigaisi demonstrated strong endgame technique and quick calculation to stun reigning champion Magnus Carlsen and renowned Grandmaster Nodirbek Abdusattorov to emerge joint leader with nine points after 11 rounds of the FIDE World Blitz Championships here on Monday.

Arjun Erigaisi

With two more rounds to go on the day, world No.1 Carlsen, who is aiming for his ninth World Blitz title to go with his sixth Rapid crown, could easily overcome the setbacks.

Carlsen, leading title contender GM Alireza Firouzja and India's Sunilduth Narayanan, are in sixth spot with eight points.

R Praggnanandhaa and reigning classical world champion D Gukesh are further down on 7.5 points in a cluster of 21 players placed in tied-14th position.

Humpy, Divya slip

Two-time World Rapid champion Koneru Humpy could not recreate the form she displayed on Sunday on way to the bronze on Sunday in the Rapid section, slipping to joint 61st position after 10 round, concluding her day on five points with leading Chinese GM Tan Zhongyi for company.

The 38 year-old Indian lost five games.

Teenage women's World Cup winner this year Divya Deshmukh was joint 30th with six points, while GMs D Harika and R Vaishali were further down on 5.5 points.

Dutch International Master Eline Roebers emerged as an unlikely sole leader with 8.5/10 points, while Aleksandra Goryachkina, winner of the Women's World Rapid crown on Sunday, was joint second with two others on eight points.

Five more rounds will be played on Tuesday with the top-four players moving into the semifinals, followed by the final.

Bethell says IPL stint helped in handling MCG pressure

MELBOURNE, PTI: Young England batter Jacob Bethell said his stint with Royal Challengers Bengaluru in the IPL helped him cope with the pressure of making his Ashes debut at the MCG.

The 22-year-old left-handed batter struck a composed 40 as England chased down 175 to win the fourth Ashes Test, snapping an 18-match winless run in Australia.

"I was pretty nervous. Not so much with the people, just the occasion, I guess. But I've played over in India where it feels like there's 160,000 people watching. This atmosphere was incredible and it was nice to get a win and contribute," he was quoted as saying by ESPNcricinfo.

"The IPL, I only played two games but every game and every occasion... Definitely, just knowing what I'm able to get out of myself when the situation is like that and when the atmosphere is like that. I definitely had a lot more confidence coming into this game after playing in front of, I don't know, 50,000 - which felt like 100,000 - at the Chinnaswamy."

Jacob Bethell

Boxer Joshua injured in crash

SAGAMU (NIGERIA), AFP: Former world heavyweight champion Anthony Joshua (**in pic**) suffered "minor injuries" in a fatal car accident that killed two people on Monday, Nigerian police said.

Pictures circulating online showed a shirtless Joshua -- a British national of Nigerian heritage -- surrounded by what appeared to be broken window glass on the seats around him.

The circumstances around the wreck are "currently being investigated," said police in Ogun state, just north of Nigeria's economic capital Lagos, which throngs with visitors from across the country and diaspora each December. Joshua's promoter Eddie Hearn told Daily Mail Sport he was on a family holiday and "awoke to the news of this incident".

"We are trying to contact Anthony and in the meantime we don't want to speculate on how he is but thankfully he appears OK from what I have seen in the images," he said.

Police said the wreck, in which two people in Joshua's car were killed, occurred around 11:00 am, in the town of Makun, along the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway. Nigeria's police said in a statement that the Lexus Joshua was riding in "was suspected to be travelling beyond the legally prescribed speed limit on the corridor, lost control during an overtake and crashed into a stationary truck"

Gray ends Tottenham's torrid run

LONDON, AFP

Tottenham ground out a much-needed three points for the under-fire Thomas Frank with a 1-0 win at Crystal Palace on Sunday.

Archie Gray was Spurs' unlikely match winner at Selhurst Park with his first senior goal as Frank's men won for just the second time in nine league games.

Richarlison had two goals disallowed for offside but Gray's header was enough for Tottenham against a Palace side running out of steam after a gruelling schedule.

"In the end we got over the line," said Frank. "The team showed great resilience today and I think the desire beat the details in the game."

Archie Gray (second from right) celebrates after scoring Tottenham's winner against Crystal Palace Sunday night. AFP

The Eagles are winless in five games as they have hit the wall from trying to stretch their limited resources across three competitions.

Oliver Glasner described his side's set-piece defending in a 4-1 defeat to Leeds last weekend as "embarrassing" and it was a dead ball that cost them once more against a Spurs team badly lacking in creativity.

An overdue victory will temporarily ease the scrutiny on Frank, but another performance devoid of flair going forward will do little to quieten his doubters in the Tottenham support.

The visitors did not have a shot on target from open play before half-time but were only denied by a VAR review for offside when Richarlison thought he had opened the scoring.

Instead the source of the only goal was an unexpected one as Gray headed in Richarlison's flick from a corner for his first goal in 112 appearances for Tottenham and Leeds.

Palace dominated territory and possession after the break but lacked the class needed in front of goal to make Spurs pay.

Result: Crystal Palace: 0 lt to Tottenham: 1 (Gray 42nd).

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